



Bully boy tactics fail to unseat trouserless Hurd

Well, well, there we are, smiled the Liberals' Sir Russell Johnston laconically, as Douglas Hurd sat down. MPs were debating amendment 2, designed to quash the Maastricht pitch.

We did not, of course, know where we were. We had no more idea where we were than before the foreign secretary stood up. All we knew was that we had watched two distinctive parliamentary performers, one in British advance, the other in elegant flight.

There is something brutish about Jack Cunningham. Though he dresses with style and moves — a suave, handsome fellow — with a sort of lounge-suited self-assurance, he retains the air of a proprietor of a gambling club, ready to ingratiate himself with a duke, but quick to corner a troublesome debtor in the lavatories and smash in his teeth.

Labour's shadow foreign secretary spoke yesterday in the manner of a sententious bully: a deputy head boy, recently appointed, with seven half-way decent O levels and second place in the inter-schools 400 metre hurdles behind him. Never far from the surface was an undertone of menace, born of the knowledge that, this time, he had the troops.

Every syllable was stressed, and punctuated by an ugly glottal stop. European became *Eeyur-ep Jan* — as though he had a smaller boy by the ear, and was twisting it slowly round, one yank per syllable, as he spoke.

He was ramming home a clumsy argument with great self-confidence, knowing he could rely for its success in the division lobbies upon people who would vote that the moon was made of blue cheese, if that discomfited the government.

Once or twice he was interrupted. On these occasions Cunningham turns on backbenchers nastily, fast, and at the slightest provoca-

tion. He is quick to become personal. To Edwina Currie, who crossed swords with him over what was supposed to be the real debate — the social chapter — he sneered that he doubted she would succeed in her hopes of becoming a Euro-MP.

On and on he went, jeering at the foreign secretary, but Douglas Hurd refused to look up, airily leafing through a sheaf of papers as if engrossed in a superior French novel — Proust perhaps, or Stendhal.

He was in fact preparing his retreat. The retreat, when it came, was performed with great elegance, but nothing concealed the pain.

It will be called "dignified" by the press but it was not really dignified. The amendment was tiresome, he said; it was undesirable, but it was irrelevant. It would have been "preferable" to leave the clause intact, "to avoid possible confusions"; but it was not necessary.

The foreign secretary stood there like a man deprived of his trousers but not his poise, arguing with style that it would have been preferable not to go out to dinner in his mauve polka-dotted boxer shorts — to avoid possible confusions.

For the sake of neatness it would have been desirable to wear trousers. But it was not necessary. He was not going to give his enemies the satisfaction of depriving him of his dinner, by cancelling on grounds of trouserlessness alone. To dinner he would go then, trouserless.

"I was in sackcloth and ashes last time, and I am not going to wear them again," he told Cunningham. We reflected that the foreign secretary cannot feel as confident as he pretends but, whenever Mr Hurd does appear in sackcloth and ashes, the sackcloth will be expensively cut and the ashes of the finest quality.

Major tells editors to dip their pens in kindliness

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday joined the BBC news debate and came down on the side of Maryn Lewis, the newscaster who is calling for the reporting of more good news.

"People want the news. They want to be informed, but they want the good news as well," John Major told an audience of provincial newspaper editors at the Newspaper Society in London. "You can brighten lives or blight them so I hope you will dip your pens in kindliness and tolerance when writing of those citizens. You record the real Britain, so be a recording angel."

But the prime minister showed

clearly that he has been hurt by the pummelling he has taken in the press since his general election victory last year. Much of what appears in national newspapers was like "acid rain", he said. In spite of his irritation at the criticism he has faced, Mr Major hinted that he would reject many of the recommendations of the Calcutt commission on the conduct of the press and refrain from punitive measures.

He welcomed the latest moves by the self-regulatory Press Complaints Commission to improve journalistic standards. Under a new code, journalists should identify themselves, the use of long-range cameras will be restricted and most members of the commission will come from outside

the industry. The new code was a "positive move", he said. But, indicating that the industry was still on probation, Mr Major added: "We will keep a particularly close eye on how effectively and widely the new measures are implemented."

Mr Major drew a distinction between the national and local press. Local papers often outperformed the nationals because they drew communities together.

The prime minister was less generous about national newspapers. "The best of the national press can be very good, even though it may not thunder like *The Times* of Delane [his editor for 36 years in the Victorian era]. But often it drizzles... and drizzles acid rain at that."

Mr Major employed a literary allusion from Trollope, his favourite author, to warn his critics that they would not go unanswered. Like Quintus Slide, the unprincipled editor of a scandal sheet in the *Barchester* chronicles, they would be confronted.

"Quintus Slide was very fierce with politicians. And politicians are sometimes very fierce with the Quintus Slides."

The fictional Mr Slide lived by the precept that if a story was true, he had the right to print it. If it was not true, he had the right to publish the allegation. Saying that there was "a common climate of anxiety about malevolent abuse", Mr Major implied that some of today's editors were little better than Mr Slide.

The prime minister reiterated his commitment to open government. He said that he would confound Sir Humphrey, the devious mandarin from the *Yes, Minister* television series, who said that it was possible to have openness or government, but not both. New proposals for opening up the workings of government and the public services to scrutiny would be published in the summer, Mr Major said.

Despite his evident mistrust of large sections of the press, Mr Major managed a joke at his own expense. He said he shared a "sympathy and kinship" with newspapers because politicians and journalists were rooted together at the bottom of the league table of public esteem.

Major warns against house price spiral

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE prices rose 1.6 per cent in April, the largest monthly rise for four years according to the Halifax building society, as John Major gave a warning against a return to the housing market conditions of the late eighties.

In a speech in London, the prime minister said he was delighted to see signs of stability in the housing market, with rising prices and growth in mortgage business. Both the number and value of loans promised in the first quarter of the year were more than 25 per cent up on the previous three months, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders yesterday.

But in the Harry Simpson Memorial Lecture, Mr Major said: "We do not want a return to the conditions of the late 1980s market. Increased numbers of sales, and more stable prices, are the best route forward for the housing market. We are helping moves towards this with low inflation and low interest rates."

The Halifax predicted that the recovery would be in line with the government's hopes. Jim Murgatroyd of the building society said: "We continue to believe the recovery will not be strong — certainly no boom is in prospect — and will only be maintained if house sellers continue to set realistic prices for their properties."

"It is probable now that

house prices will show a small increase in 1993 as a whole and they could then rise in line with average earnings in the economy next year."

Mr Murgatroyd said the 1.6 per cent rise was the best since November 1988.

Mark Boleat, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "The first quarter marked a significant improvement over the depressed level of activity experienced in the final quarter of last year."

"With evidence of a recovery in the wider economy becoming increasingly apparent, the likelihood is for a further solid improvement in housing market activity over the coming months."

John Major yesterday scorned critics of his handling of the economy, saying that his tough anti-inflationary stance was the foundation for the recovery rather than the humiliating forced devaluation of the pound.

At a Newspaper Society lunch in London, he said: "It was the long hard slog to get inflation down, from nearly 11 per cent to just 1.9 per cent, that laid the foundation for recovery. We started that process before we joined the exchange-rate mechanism. And the benefits had started to come through before we left."

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Hopeful encounter: Rhys and his mother after meeting Mr al-Fayed yesterday

Transplant boy offered treatment on NHS

By IAN MURRAY

RHYS Daniels, the two-year-old boy who needs a bone-marrow transplant this summer to save his life, was offered treatment on the NHS in Bristol yesterday.

Health service officials also promised to find a new home for the world's leading bone-marrow unit from Westminster Children's Hospital, which was closed down at the beginning of last month before it could treat Rhys.

The two offers came as Mohammed al-Fayed, chairman of Harrods, met the Daniels family and promised to pay all their medical and legal expenses and to donate enough to re-establish the special unit wherever experts agree it will be most useful.

Rhys has Batten's disease, which will kill him by the time he is seven if he is not treated before symptoms appear. Charly, his five-year-old sister, also has the disease and is showing signs of dementia and blindness.

The government refused to move the Westminster unit as promised to the new Chelsea and Westminster hospital because building costs there were £100 million over budget. The family has been given leave to ask for an order in the High Court requiring Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, to reopen the unit. Even if the order is made, it will be too late for Rhys.

The offer of treatment starting on May 16 came from Dr Tony Oakhill, consultant at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The hospital has a high level of expertise in transplants from donors who are not related to the patient, although it lacks the experience of the Westminster unit in treating Batten's disease.

Second test adviser steps down

Continued from page 1

The national curriculum was introduced in 1988. Two months of testing have been rejected in the past three years, and the latest version had to be rewritten after trial papers were leaked. The curriculum itself was revised last month.

Mr Patten said the latest tests had been approved by the council only last month. "So I was extremely surprised and sorry to receive Dr Marenbon's resignation. He has not been directly in contact with me, education minister Lady Blanch, or the department over this issue."

Dr Marenbon, however, said he had made "repeated requests" for a paper testing prior reading of a set anthology and prescribed texts by Shakespeare and other authors to be postponed and rewritten. Although there had been some further revision, he still considered the tests unsatisfactory and regretted that the issue had not been discussed by the full council.

The inadequacy of this paper raises a deeper problem, he added. "It shows very clearly that, at least in a subject such as English, your laudable aim of introducing simple, accurate, unambiguous methods of testing is incompatible with the ten-point scale and the general framework of the national curriculum as it now stands."

CORRECTIONS

In some editions yesterday, photographs of Lord Skidelsky, Nelson Mandela and Markus Wolf were incorrectly captioned. We apologise for the error.

An article by Simon Jenkins yesterday incorrectly referred to the Ribble Valley by-election, instead of that at Epping Forest.

Euro rebels force Major to retreat

Continued from page 1

defeat over the social chapter amendment on which it had tried for weeks to avoid a vote.

To jeers, he explained that the government would "acquiesce" in the amendment because it did not wish to give its opponents the "entirely synthetic victory they crave".

However, ministers surrendered in order to avoid an embarrassing setback on the eve of local elections and the Newbury by-election.

The mood of ministers was not improved by the disclosure that Baroness Thatcher is expected today to appear at a press conference to announce the results of the national telephone campaign for a referendum on the treaty.

"Beautifully timed as usual," one minister said last night.

Mr Hurd had told the Commons that neither the Tory rebels nor the opposition parties would achieve their objectives from the amendment. It would not prevent the government from ratifying the treaty or force it to incorporate the social chapter on workers' rights. The only common purpose of the amendment's supporters was to inflict a defeat on the government, he said.

Government sources conceded that "it would be for the lawyers to fight out" whether the court action would have implications for the timing of ratification. Much depends on when the legal action, challenging the Attorney-General's ruling that the amendment would not prevent ratification, begins.

A Conservative rebel, Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North, said: "The government has come before us with a treaty. The House has torn some pages out of the treaty. How then, given the sovereignty of this House, can the government ratify the treaty with the pages torn out?"

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Father still missing after family murders

Detectives investigating the murders of a mother and her two young children are interviewing friends and relatives to establish a motive as their hunt continued last night for the woman's missing husband, Dennis Garvey, 43, disappeared after the murders of his wife Julie, who was found battered to death, and her children Benjamin, 4, and Hannah, 2, at their home in the village of Teddington, near Twickenbury.

There have been several reported sightings of Mr Garvey, a computer technician, and his blue Volvo estate car, but police still have no idea what has happened to him since the murders were discovered by the family nanny on Tuesday morning. Det Supt Peter Shayle, who is leading the murder investigation, said: "This seems to have been a normal happy family and I am concerned for the welfare of Mr Garvey and keen to trace him as soon as possible."

Police throughout Britain have been alerted and a watch is being maintained at air and sea ports. Mr Garvey has not visited his holiday caravan in Wales nor contacted his relatives.

Watts inquest opens

The body of Sir Roy Watts, recovered from the Thames on Tuesday, had probably been in the water for a week, an inquest at Poplar, east London, was told yesterday. Sir Roy, 67, chairman of Thames Water, went missing from his London flat on Tuesday of last week. The inquest was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

School rape charge

A boy aged 15 was yesterday accused of raping a girl aged 16 in the toilets of a school in Lambeth, southwest London. The boy, alleged to have carried out the attack on January 27, appeared at Camberwell youth court where he was also accused of two indecent assaults on the girl. He was granted bail and will appear at Balham youth court on June 7.

Six quizzed over killing

Police were questioning six men yesterday about the killing of Benji Stanley, the schoolboy shot as he queued at a takeaway food shop in Moss Side, Manchester, four months ago. Benji, who was 14, is thought to have been the innocent victim of a drugs war. The six men were among 13 people arrested in raids in the city yesterday morning.

Couple win £1.8m

A newly-wed couple from Portsmouth collected a cheque for £1,803,297 yesterday after winning the pools. Paul and Teresa Pitt, aged 26 and 25, who had forgotten to check their coupon, were told of their success in a telephone call from Littlewoods. Mrs Pitt said: "We'll be able to pay off our mortgage and go on a nice holiday somewhere in the sun."

Rugby Cement
50kg Nominal
£4.49
SAVE 50p
£3.99

Marshall's Richmond
Smooth Paving
450 x 450mm Grey/Blue
Singles £1.75
SAVE 10p
£1.65

Bulk Pack
Price for 70
£119.00
SAVE £36.50
£73.50
(Equiv. to £1.05 each)

Homebase Building Sand
40kg Nominal
£1.99
SAVE 84p
£1.15

ECC Countryside
Pitched Walling
290 x 100 x 65mm Buff
Singles 55p
SAVE 10p
45p

Bulk Pack Price for 216
£105.00
SAVE £17.50
£87.50
(Equiv. to 405p each)

Supamix
Bricklaying
Mortar Mix
40kg Nominal
£4.49
SAVE £1.50
£3.99

ECC Europa
Block Paving
290 x 100 x 65mm
Grey Singles
25p
SAVE £16.85
20p

Bulk Pack Price for 340
£64.45
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Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Rugby Cement has been at £3.99 and Homebase Building Sand at £1.15 for the last 28 days at Oldbury, Willesden, Penge, Crayford and Luton stores.

Safe in a Cypriot haven: Asil Nadir has left his backers in trouble as he flees from British justice

Ex-wife and old friend face jail or losing £1.5m

A bill now before Parliament is expected to help to change the circumstances which allowed Asil Nadir to flee

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ASIL Nadir's former wife Ayesha and a childhood friend face forfeiting cash and jewellery worth a total of £1.5 million or going to prison for up to five years if the bankrupt founder of the Polly Peck empire refuses to return for trial in Britain.

Lawyers for the Serious Fraud Office will today report Mr Nadir's flight to the self-styled Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus and his breach of bail to Mr Justice Macpherson at the Old Bailey. They may ask for a bench warrant allowing police to arrest Mr Nadir and bring him to court for breaking the conditions of his bail.

According to Roger Ede, an expert on bail with the Law Society, if Mr Nadir does not

appear for trial his flight will cease to be a breach of bail and become a criminal offence of absconding from trial. At this stage his two sureties would then face the loss of their money. Whoever helped Mr Nadir might also face criminal charges.

Ramadan Guney, owner of Britain's largest private cemetery at Brookwood, Surrey, said yesterday he could face bankruptcy for putting up £1 million towards Mr Nadir's record £3.5 million bail more than two years ago. Mr Guney said he felt "let down" by one of his oldest friends.

"At the moment I am trying to find out exactly what has happened and have some people in Cyprus who will be trying to make contact with Mr Nadir. I have known him since he was a child. My father is a distant relation. I feel very disappointed. I don't know who is to blame for him being able to leave the country."

Another £500,000 was pledged by Mr Nadir's former wife, who told Sir David Hopkins, then chief stipendiary magistrate in London, she could meet the amount by selling jewellery and antiques. Yesterday she was not avail-

able for comment and was reported to be out of Britain. Mr Nadir himself lodged £2 million with his solicitors.

Mrs Nadir and Mr Guney could lose their money unless they persuade a court not to hold them to the sureties. If they cannot pay the cash, they face up to five years in prison.

The bail was set in December 1990 at Bow Street magistrates court. Bail can only be refused if the prosecution can show the accused might flee, interfere with witnesses or carry out fresh crime. Sir David turned down pleas by the SFO for bail to be refused. The SFO said yesterday it had fought against bail, arguing that Mr Nadir might abscond to Northern Cyprus, which has no diplomatic links with Britain.

The SFO could not appeal. A private member's bill is going through Parliament to allow a prosecution to challenge a magistrate's decision to give bail before a judge.

It took Mr Nadir three days to raise the sureties. He was released on condition he surrendered his British and Turkish passports, lived at his West End address, did not apply for any travel documents and reported daily to police.

In 1991 the conditions were varied to allow Mr Nadir to travel in Britain after giving the police notice. He was also allowed to report to the police once a week. He tried to get his passport back, supported by administrators of the Polly Peck empire hoping to find assets in Cyprus. Both Bow Street and a High Court judge turned him down.

Officially Mr Nadir was last seen on Monday evening when he reported as usual to West End central police station. His case had last been examined during preparatory hearings at the Old Bailey on 17 April. The case has been delayed because Mr Nadir said he had been unwell. It was due to start in September.

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Millionaire lifestyle: clockwise from top left, Mr Nadir, the house in Mayfair, where his former wife Ayesha lived, his old friend Ramadan Guney, who put up some of the £3.5 million bail, and his former mansion at Burley-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, bought for £7 million

Village lad went from rag trade to renegade

By ANGELA MACRAE

ASIL Nadir spent his first afternoon in the self-styled Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus taking tea with his mother, Safiye, at the family home in Lapa, a village in the mountains behind the port of Kyrenia.

He has a close relationship with his 72-year-old mother. It was the first time since 1991 that they had been together at the large stone house in the middle of the village, which has benefited hugely from his largesse during the past 20 years and is the stronghold of pro-Nadir sentiment.

Mr Nadir's father Irfan was an ice-cream vendor on the island before rapidly expanding his interests to include a

supermarket, a bus service and investors before his master company, Polly Peck International, collapsed in October 1990 owing £1.3 billion. The stock market statistics are impressive. A stake bought for £1,000 in 1979 was worth

more than £1 million in 1989. Mr Nadir's first success was a clothing company, Wearwell, based in the East End's Commercial Road. But the property slump of the mid-1970s almost proved his undoing after he bought several buildings near by.

In 1980, a Nadir company based in Jersey, Resto Investment, took control of another

loss-making clothing manufacturer, Polly Peck, bidding 9p a share on the stock market. One year later, the shares were trading at 350p and Asil was established.

Within four years, Polly Peck became a fruit packing, mineral water and electronics group. Its shares touched a high of £35.75 but dropped sharply after accusations by the Cyprus government that the company was involved in seizing Greek Cypriot property in the north of the island. Mr Nadir emerged tarnished but unbowed and later merged Polly Peck with Wearwell, doubling the size of the group.

For all this big business, Mr Nadir never penetrated the inner sanctum of the City

establishment. He was considered too smooth, too successful and too close to politicians in Turkey and Northern Cyprus. He donated large sums to the Conservative party in the hope this would buy him acceptance.

The empire started to unravel in August 1990 when he said he wanted to take Polly Peck private. This prompted unprecedented scrutiny of the company, culminating in police raids on a subsidiary and the head office. Mr Nadir was later arrested and faces 13 charges of theft amounting to £64 million.

The final ignominy was bankruptcy in November 1991 and an injunction freezing £378 million of Mr Nadir's assets.

straying into protected airspace, he should have filed a full flight plan. He should also have kept in touch with ground controllers and landed first in Turkey for permission to land at Ercan airport.

Police were last night faced with a mass of confusing clues, many emanating from Turkey. It was suggested that the aircraft, possibly a Learjet, had taken off from Scotland, but there was no evidence of this. Then a report — flatly denied — said Mr Nadir had left from Hatfield on a flight operated by a company known as Air Station.

The Civil Aviation Authority were asked to check to see if a flight plan had been filed. But with thousands of private flights logged each day, the main air traffic control computer at West Drayton wipes them from its memory after 12 hours. The jet probably "hedge-hopped", keeping below 3,000 ft away from military zones and so of no interest to air traffic controllers.

Departure broke air rules

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

ASIL Nadir's flight to freedom left few clues.

He was driven to an airfield near London, threw his bags into the luggage compartment of a business jet, and disappeared.

His pilot, possibly brought over from Turkey, would not even have had to file a flight plan if he convinced air traffic controllers that he would keep out of commercial airspace and stay within British airspace. Mr Nadir was soon at Ercan airport in northern Cyprus and taken to a safe house.

The pilot broke every rule in the book. By flying internationally, probably

THE FLIGHT

straying into protected airspace, he should have filed a full flight plan. He should also have kept in touch with ground controllers and landed first in Turkey for permission to land at Ercan airport.

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I thought he loved his country enough to go somewhere else, a friend says

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND ANDREW FINKEL

ASIL Nadir may be a fugitive from justice in Britain, but in the self-declared republic of Northern Cyprus he is Robin Hood, a man who took from the City of London to give to the beleaguered economy of his Mediterranean island and whose break for freedom is seen as exciting as any escape in Sherwood Forest.

Northern Cyprus, recognised only by Turkey and having no extradition treaty with Britain, gives Mr Nadir a base where he has extensive business interests and three homes, including a fabulous villa overlooking the Mediterranean. He is also cherished locally as the man whose Midas touch helped to bolster an otherwise stagnant economy and who still keeps nearly 5,000 people in work out of a population of about 150,000.

Turkish Cypriot authorities

confirmed yesterday that there was little chance Britain would be able to prise away Mr Nadir, which is not something that causes universal delight among his countrymen, as there is a fear that his decision to jump bail will set back a bid for respectability and play into the Greek side's hands in current UN negotiations. Bulent Semler, a Northern

VIEW FROM CYPRUS

Cypriot businessman and close friend of Mr Nadir, said: "I thought he loved his country enough to go somewhere else." A diplomat said that the Turkish Cypriots were caught between a rock and a hard place. "They don't want to appear a rebel state by not handing him over, but at the same time he is popular and well connected."

When Mr Nadir's private jet touched down at Ercan air-

port, he was met by his sister, Bilge Nevzat, and by Mustafa Erbilien, a high ranking deputy in the ruling National Unity Party (NUP). "It is the nearest thing you can get to an official reception," the diplomat commented.

Mr Nadir has kept close to the NUP and to Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash. In 1990 he helped to finance Mr Denktash's presidential campaign and his printing presses run off hundreds of posters of the leader.

When Polly Peck came unstuck in 1990, its sophisticated London-based administrators found themselves bailing fierce island loyalty to the Nadir cause. To the citrus groves of Morphou, keeping the accountants away from the books took on the same sense of patriotic duty as defending their self-declared country from the Greek south. Visitors from the City, hoping to unravel the web of companies within companies, often found

the locals distinctly unhelpful. Polly Peck's assets are estimated to be worth tens of millions of pounds. They include hotels, plants processing 100,000 tonnes of citrus a year and a cardboard packing facility. Local court orders block any sale, however, even if a buyer willing to invest in Northern Cyprus could be found.

Mr Nadir's defenders believe that it was Greek Cypriots who engineered Polly Peck's collapse. And alongside those who benefited from his largesse were Turkish Cypriots who resented Mr Nadir's bolstering of the Denktash government. Polly Peck's conversion of northern Cyprus into an off-shore haven was itself an obstacle to the island's eventual reunification with the south.

Now the concern is that Mr Nadir's latest act is an admission of guilt which will try the patience of even the north's one remaining friend, Turkey.

Cyprus embarrassment for legal chiefs

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

AS the fugitive Asil Nadir threw a party at his villa in Lapa in Northern Cyprus last night to celebrate his freedom, 350 dinner-suited guests took their seats at a banquet 20 miles to the south at the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia. One of the principal guests was Lord Mackay of

IRONY

Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. Also present were George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, Barbara Mills QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions who had Mr Nadir arrested in 1990, and Roger Pannone, vice president of the Law Society and Mr Nadir's defence solicitor.

As the Crown's principal legal officers and administrators sipped champagne, the irony of the venue of the 10th Commonwealth Law Conference was not lost

on them. Mr Pannone was late for the dinner given by the Cyprus Bar in the elegant Berengia ballroom because his office was constantly telephoning him in room 442 to discuss the embarrassing situation facing him.

He said: "Undoubtedly Mr Nadir has been under a great deal of pressure, but the fact that I am in Cyprus has nothing to do with his being in the northern part of the island."

"The Lord Chancellor, the director of the SFO and the DPP have, like myself, been booked here for a long time. 'You should read no more into our being here than the fact that we agreed many months ago to give papers to the conference. I certainly have no plans to visit or contact Mr Nadir.'"

Meanwhile, his client was throwing a big party of his own at his sumptuous villa on the other side of the "green line", tantalisingly close, but as out of reach as if he had been in mid-ocean.



Mills: "a strange coincidence"

While the internationally recognised government of Cyprus has an extradition treaty with Britain, the breakaway self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus does not.

"Indeed, it's a strange coincidence," said Lord Mackay. "We have to think very hard about what we can do. The situation in Cyprus is very difficult and delicate."

Lord Mackay was in touch with David Dain, the British

High Commissioner, yesterday, but declined to say what he thought of the Turkish Cypriot authorities' refusal to hand over Mr Nadir.

He said he was not planning to extend his stay on the island.

Barbara Mills, the former head of the Serious Fraud Office, chaired a conference session on Tuesday entitled *Rising Crime in the Commonwealth*.

She said: "I've no feelings on the matter. I thought it was a very strange coincidence, and a very unusual time for it to have happened."

Speaking in the lobby of the hotel, Mrs Mills, wearing a bright pink business suit, added: "The Nadir inquiry had started shortly before I arrived at the fraud office in September, 1990. Really, I have nothing to do with it now." She left the fraud office in May last year.

Mr Staple, who had earlier chaired a session at the conference on commercial crime, was not available for comment.

It's now too late for the cheapest fixed-rate mortgages says the Halifax, Abbey National, NatWest, N&P, Barclays and

NOT IF YOU MOVE QUICKLY SAYS CHASE DE VERE

The Halifax withdrew fixed rate mortgages last week, except for first time buyers. National & Provincial have pushed their 2 year fixed rate mortgages up, in some cases to almost 8%. NatWest and Barclays have already followed suit with increases of 0.5% to 0.7%. And Abbey National have withdrawn their 2 year fixed rate mortgages altogether.

Now the experts are warning that this probably spells the end of exceptionally low-priced fixed rate mortgages.

But you needn't miss the boat. Call us now because, at Chase De Vere, we can still offer mortgages for as little as 6.25% (APR 8.2%).

Better still, this low rate will stay fixed for 2 years. So, no matter what happens with other people's interest rates, your monthly repayments will be completely safe from any rate increases until June 1995.

After that it becomes a normal variable mortgage — but only after you have had the benefit of two whole years in which to budget and safely plan ahead.

Funds are limited and we are offering these mortgages on a strictly 'first come, first served' basis. Call us now because mortgages this good have already disappeared from leading building societies.

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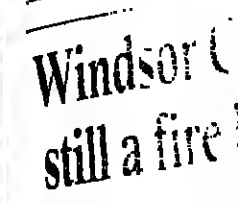
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Damian Shine, 19, Apprentice Shipwright

Bill Fraser, Managing Director South West Water Source: Adapted from Financial Times, 1 February 1993

Mike Tinker, Albert Road Dairy (opposite one of Devonport's main gates)

Malcolm Haggart, Fox and Haggart (marine engineering company, Devonport supplier) Source: Financial Times, 1 February 1993

Graham Stirling, Barden Corporation (talking about knock-on effects on the region's transport links)

CLOSURE?

DML
DEVONPORT

Motorists
oppose
M-way fee

[illegible]

Imbert defends his Guildford Four confession notes

BY A STAFF REPORTER

SIR Peter Imbert, the former Metropolitan Police commissioner, said yesterday his record of one of the Guildford Four confessing to planting a pub bomb which killed five people was "as accurate as one could humanly make it".

Sir Peter was appearing at the Old Bailey at the request of lawyers defending three former Surrey police officers accused of perverting the course of justice by lying under oath. Former Det Chief Insp Thomas Style, 59, former Det Sgt John Donaldson, 57, and former Det Const Vernon Atwell, 52, deny the charges.

The prosecution alleges that notes of an interview with Patrick Armstrong, which the former officers said were written contemporaneously, were written up later from roughly typed notes.

Sir Peter told the jury that at the time of the Guildford pub bombs in October 1974, he was a detective superintendent in the newly formed bomb squad.

Sir Peter knew that Paul Hill, one of the Guildford Four, had confessed to Surrey officers about his part in a murder in Belfast and about his involvement in the Guildford bombs.

Sir Peter said he and other senior officers travelled to

Guildford to interview Hill about another bomb in Woolwich, southeast London, in November 1974. Hill admitted for the first time going on the Woolwich bombing mission and but claimed that Armstrong hurled the bomb. Hill also indicated where Armstrong could be found, Sir Peter said.

Sir Peter said he and senior bomb squad detectives interviewed Armstrong after he was arrested and had confessed his part in the Guildford bombings to Surrey police. Sir Peter, who wrote shorthand, recorded the interview in which Armstrong admitted going with Carole Richardson into one of the



Sir Peter: shorthand "was accurate"

Guildford pubs and planting the bomb. Armstrong denied being on the bombing.

Asked by Edmund Lawson QC, for the defence, if his shorthand record was a truthful account of the interview, Sir Peter said: "It was as accurate as one could humanly make it."

Mr Lawson said: "Was that confession obtained by the use or threat of violence?" Sir Peter replied: "None at all."

The Guildford Four—Armstrong, Hill, Richardson and Gerard Conlon—were jailed for life in 1975, but were released in 1989 after the Court of Appeal quashed their convictions.

Sir Peter told the court he had also interviewed Richardson and she repeated what she had admitted to other officers—her part in the Guildford bombing.

The day after the Guildford Four's conviction, Sir Peter said he received a message saying Conlon wanted to see someone from the bomb squad. Conlon then "went into considerable detail about [IRA] personalities and places". A week later, in a two-hour interview secretly tape-recorded by police, Conlon gave even more information.

The case was adjourned until today.

BBC pays £2m to keep comedy duo

FROM ALEXANDRA FREAN IN MONTREUX

THE BBC has signed a ground-breaking five-year contract with the comedians Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders in an effort to stop the talent it has nurtured moving to independent television.

The deal, believed to be worth about £2 million, will prevent the duo from working for any other British television station, but will give them freedom to develop new programmes, including serious drama.

It is the longest and most expensive BBC contract of its kind, and demonstrates the corporation's determination to see off competition from ITV and cable and satellite stations, that are eager to poach their biggest stars.

Last month Phillip Schofield, who presented the children's programme *Going Live*, signed a £1 million, three-year contract with Carlton Television and LWT to appear in a wide range of programmes. Noel Edmonds, whose family show *Noel's House Party* is one of BBC1's most successful programmes, is negotiating a new contract with the corporation and is being wooed by ITV for a rumoured £3 million.

Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1, announced the French and Saunders contract at the Golden Rose television festival in Montreux, Switzerland. He said

that the comedy duo, whom he championed when he was controller of BBC2, were a "particularly rare breed of entertainment".

Mr Yentob did not think they were in danger of defecting to independent television, but "everyone has approaches from everyone all the time". He added: "In these days of hop, skip and jump deals this contract represents a real commitment."

Under the contract, French and Saunders will produce an average of two of their comedy series a year as well as work on separate projects. "They will do the shows they feel passionately about and if they want to experiment with new things they will do so," Mr Yentob said.

He was hopeful that Noel Edmonds would sign a new contract soon. He denied that the deal had been difficult to agree, but joked: "It is a courtship that the BBC's natural history unit would love to have filmed."

Mr Yentob announced that *EastEnders* will be shown three times a week instead of two, following the example of ITV's *Coronation Street* and *The Bill*.

He would not reveal the new times of the soap opera, but said that it would help to fill the gap left by the demise of its Spanish counterpart, *Eldorado*. New families may be introduced to fill the extra time.



Wealth of talent: French and Saunders, whose lucrative deal will tie them to the BBC

Windsor Castle 'is still a fire hazard'

BY TONY DAWE

WINDSOR Castle, which has been attracting record numbers of visitors this year, remains a fire hazard despite safety measures taken since the £40 million blaze, the Berkshire county fire officer has reported.

As royal officials yesterday entered the dispute over safety at the castle prior to last November's fire, Garth Scottford, Berkshire's fire chief, listed the faults which still exist.

In his report to Her Majesty's chief fire inspector, Mr Scottford said measures to stop fire and smoke spreading through large areas of the castle are "totally absent or ineffective" and even those fire doors which have been provided are not fitted with smoke seals.

The report claimed that few fire exits are indicated in the state rooms open to the public, which contain furnishings and panelling which are not fire resistant.

Mr Scottford pointed out that the fire brigade had no statutory obligations for fire precautions in the castle because it is a Crown property and immune from prosecution under the fire regulations.

The report and the safety warnings at the castle led the Chief Fire Officers' Association to renew its call yesterday for the lifting of Crown immunity from fire

laws. Terry Glossop, chief officer of Gwent and chairman of the association's safety committee, said: "The fire services must have adequate powers to ensure that all public buildings and places of work have proper fire safety precautions."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said yesterday: "The report does not say that recommendations were ignored." He claimed that the Property Services Agency, which was responsible for the upkeep of the castle until the royal household took over in 1991, had carried out various fire protection measures. "They did a lot of work and it is unfair to say they did not."

The spokesman also said that claims that last November's fire was "turned into a £40 million disaster by a series of blunders" were misleading and that the fire brigade report described these factors as insignificant.

However, in a section headed "Summary and Observations", the report said that a sophisticated automatic fire detection system would have prevented the initial fire taking hold and a sprinkler system would have contained the fire until the brigade arrived. The report said the brigade had recommended on several occasions that both systems should be installed in the castle.

Motorists oppose M-way fee

BY TIM JONES
TRANSPORT
CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to charge motorists up to £50 for using motorways would face huge opposition and encourage drivers to use less safe roads, a Royal Automobile Club survey published today says.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, is preparing to publish a green paper which will put forward motorway charges to fund new lane extensions.

Yesterday the British Road Federation said that more than 5,000 miles of roads were in need of urgent structural repair. Richard Diment, the BRF director, said: "Insufficient priority has been given to regular low-cost maintenance."

In the RAC poll of motorists, 86 per cent said they were opposed to paying extra to use the motorway system. About a third said they would stop using them. David Worscott, of the RAC, said the research showed that if motorway charges were introduced, "motorists would use less suitable, less safe roads".

MPs attack benefits bottleneck

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs yesterday delivered a scathing attack on the government's handling of two new disability benefits which they said had proved "a nightmare" for claimants.

The all-party Commons social security committee claimed that delays in processing the disability living and working allowances were so great that several applicants died before the money reached them. Others had faced "untold financial hardship".

In a highly critical report, the MPs accused the Benefits Agency of "complete administrative disarray" in its inability to deal with a huge surge of claims for the benefits, introduced in April 1992.

Frank Field, the chairman, said the fiasco raised questions of accountability and at the very least the benefits unit should be disbanded.

Nicholas Scott, social security minister, admitted later that the agency had misjudged the response. "It was taken by surprise by the tremendous success and the surge of take-up of this new benefit," he said on BBC Radio 4.

Disabled people and carers will converge on Westminster today to protest at government opposition to anti-discrimination legislation.

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and assa
will get

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Baby dies
after police
car crashes**

A five-month-old baby died after a police car crashed into a wall in London. The car was driven by a constable who was not injured. The baby was in the back seat and was killed instantly. The constable was charged with manslaughter.

Birds four

Four birds were found dead in a garden in London. The birds were identified as two sparrows and two finches. The cause of death is not yet known.

Mine close

A coal mine in Scotland was closed for several days after a fire broke out in the underground. The fire was caused by a faulty electrical cable.

Miss bound

A young woman was bound and gagged in a room in London. The woman was found by a neighbor who called the police. The police are investigating the case.

Princess end

The Princess of Wales ended her work of osteopathy. She had been practicing the profession for several years.

Man shot

A man was shot in the back in London. The man was identified as a member of a criminal gang. The police are investigating the shooting.

Man found

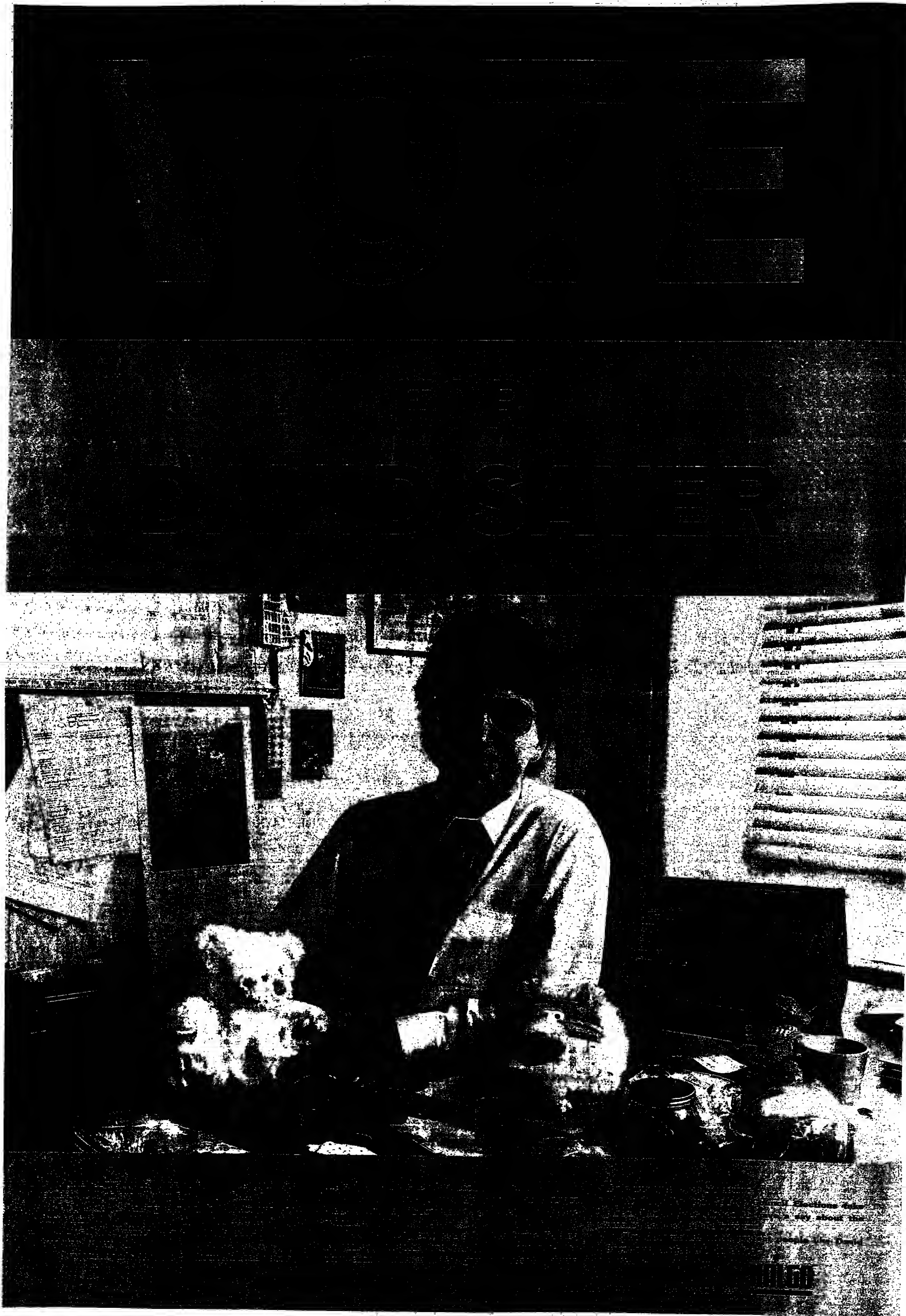
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مركز الامن

Lawyers fear rape and assault victims will get less cash

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of violent crime such as rape or assault will receive drastically reduced compensation under government proposals to be published this summer, lawyers said yesterday.

Instead of the current system in which every award to a victim of crime was assessed individually, the government planned to introduce a "tariff" system operated by junior civil servants, the lawyers said.

Simon Walton and Andrew Dismore, solicitors with the trades union firm Robin Thompson & Partners, which has handled thousands of claims for compensation, were commenting in *London* on the likely impact of a white paper in July which will overhaul the criminal injuries compensation scheme.

They warned that people who suffered psychological trauma, such as a train driver who ran over a suicide victim, might not be compensated at all, or only minimally. Payments for loss of earnings to victims who cannot work would be abolished.

Other changes included a higher qualifying limit for an award, from £1,000 to £1,500, so that "quite serious" injuries deserving less than that sum would not qualify. The new tariff system would inevitably

mean much lower awards, Mr Walton said.

"Clearly the idea is to save money. But our worry, speaking from experience with handling these claims, is that we will see considerable injustice. It's one thing having a tariff for minor injuries, but how can you have a tariff for psychological injury... such as the train driver who suffers shock after running over a suicide victim, or for a rape injury?"

"Instead of looking at each injury individually, and calculating the effect of the injury on the victim, the new scheme will just assess the injury itself without any regard to the victim's circumstances. So if someone whose profession is modelling had a broken nose, the award would be just the same as to a person whose job did not depend on it."

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme paid out £144 million in 1991-2 to some 39,000 victims of violent crime. The government wants to speed up delays and simplify the assessment. Instead of a panel of barristers and solicitors determining awards, the tariff system would be operated by officials.

"They are abolishing an excellent scheme and replacing it with one which will

provide token awards," Mr Walton said.

Ollie Jackson, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that the plans would have a devastating effect on its members. Many drivers were unable to work because of the psychological trauma: if that was not going to be compensated, it would do a grave disservice to his members.

Law Adams, assistant general secretary of Aslef, the train drivers' union, said a "tariff system seems ludicrous. Who would judge the figure for shock caused by being involved in a suicide? We had some 375 suicides last year."

The government came under further attack yesterday when its plans for a fundamental review of how magistrates' courts are run were described as a grave threat to the independence of the courts.

The proposals, contained in a white paper, could bring "undue governmental control and influence", Michael Guy, president of the Justices' Clerks' Society, said at the opening of the society's annual conference in Eastbourne.

He also attacked the government's "potentially catastrophic failure" to consult properly on the proposed reforms.



Life imitating art: the YMCA acts out its new poster with some of the young people helped by a scheme that provides a combination of accommodation, counselling and training. Nearly 60 per cent of those who have completed the government-backed scheme have got jobs

Matrix Churchill exports first suspected in 1988

MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT officials suspected as early as August 1988 that equipment destined for Iraq could have military uses but could not prove it, Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair was told yesterday.

Acting on information that Matrix Churchill, the Coventry-based machine tool manufacturer, was exporting equipment which could make munitions, Export Credits Guarantee Department staff were told by Foreign Office and customs officials that the company had a clean bill of health, the enquiry was told.

Giving evidence on the second day of the Scott enquiry's public hearings, David Bryars, an underwriter for the department's insurance services unit, said that while he was arranging insurance cover for the company's exports, he had been worried by information that equipment described

as "general measuring instruments" could be used to manufacture arms. Export Credits Guarantee Department officials are responsible for arranging insurance cover for British exporters in case of non-payment by foreign buyers.

After contacting the Foreign Office, Mr Bryars was told the company's machine tools were the subject of an investigation by Foreign Office and trade department officials. The Foreign Office said it would get back to him only if ministers decided the company's ex-

ports should be stopped. "I was given a strong impression that it would be OK," he said.

Mr Bryars also contacted his department's own investigative unit to find out whether Matrix Churchill had any record of non-compliance with the export regulations. "They contacted Customs and Excise and the answer came back that Matrix Churchill were 'clean'—they had not transgressed any export regulations," he said. The hearings resume on Monday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baby dies after police car crashes

A four-week-old baby died after being flung through the open window of a car involved in an accident with a police patrol car on its way to a hoax alarm call in Bilston, West Midlands.

Daniel Jones died at Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital from multiple injuries, four hours after the crash involving a car driven by his father, Barry Jones, 31, who suffered a broken pelvis.

The baby's mother, Karen Morris, 21, suffered a minor head injury, and the two policemen in the patrol car were treated for shock. An investigation into the accident is to be carried out.

Birds found

Dover customs officers were questioning two men from Epping, Essex, after finding 700 parrots and finches worth £10,000 in the back of a van during a spot check.

Mine to close

Grimethorpe Colliery, near Barnsley, Yorkshire is to close tomorrow after the 200 remaining miners voted to accept redundancy.

Dallas bound

Graeme Jenkins, 34, the British conductor, has been named musical director designate of the Dallas Opera.

'Healthier' food labels unjustified

By ROBIN YOUNG

FOOD manufacturers make meaningless claims for their products, according to the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?*, because the law allows them "to say almost anything they like".

In its May issue, published today, the magazine criticises manufacturers for making unjustified, unclear, or selective claims that their products are healthy or good for you. There are no definitions to regulate claims like "low fat", "high fibre" or "reduced salt".

According to government recommendations, a food which is "low fat" should have been modified to contain little fat. "A low fat food" is inherently low in fat, like apples. A food "lower" in fat or said to have "reduced fat" should contain at least a quarter less fat than a standard version of the food — yet that may leave a lot of fat in fatty products such as sausages.

"Low fat" or "low sugar" food will not necessarily have fewer calories. Sainsbury's "reduced sugar" digestive biscuits contain less sugar than Sainsbury's standard digestives but more calories.

Health claims are the most confusing, because in Britain labels can say that a food has ingredients that are beneficial for health even though the evidence for the claim is disputed. Some foods may also contain little of the supposedly beneficial ingredient.

Princess endorses work of osteopaths

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess of Wales yesterday endorsed chiropractic and osteopathy, saying that she was "very much in favour" of alternative medicine. The princess said that she had tried both techniques, which involve different ways of manipulating the joints.

At the same time, a report said that chiropractors who offer treatment without proper training should be outlawed and that a registration system should be set up.

The princess, who is patron of the Anglo-European College of Chiropractic, made her comments after joining the audience at the launch of a report by the King's Fund which recommends that it should be a criminal offence for an unqualified person to use the title chiropractor.

She said at the fund's centre in London: "We all experience a lot of stress. When you think what you put your body through each day, it is not surprising you need help."

Asked if she preferred chiropractic to osteopathy, the princess said she did not, "but chiropractic was better for my body".

Earlier, Robert Maxwell, chief executive of the King's Fund, warned that poorly trained chiropractors could do more harm than good. But a Medical Research Council trial involving 700 patients had shown that, in the right hands, the technique was more effective at relieving low back pain than hospital treatment.

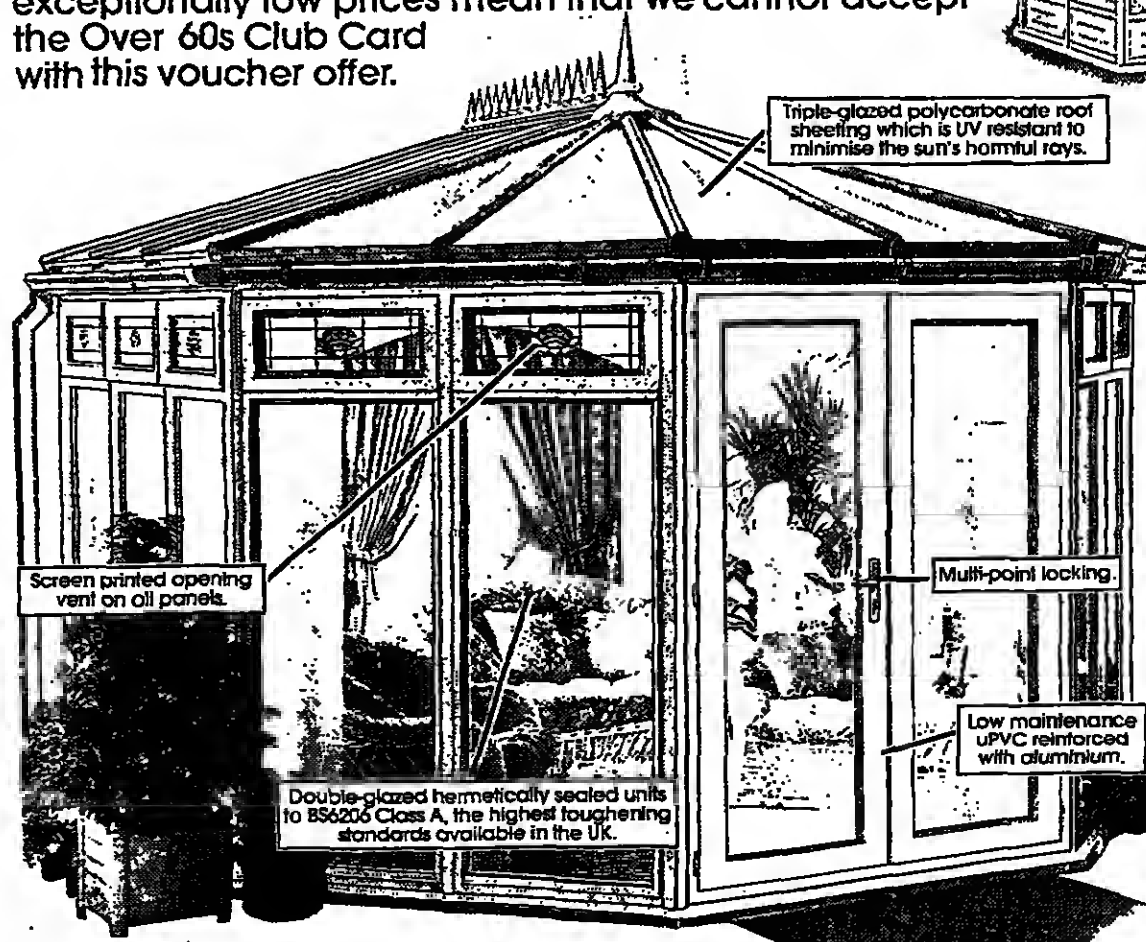
"Chiropractic is now at the stage where it is appropriate to regulate it for the protection of the public," he said.

Ian Hutchinson, chairman of the chiropractic registration steering group, said there were 800 qualified chiropractors in Britain treating 75,000 patients a week and charging around £20 for a 20-minute session, but "every area has one or two individuals who are not trained". There was a risk that untrained practitioners could make patients worse, treat conditions which would not respond, or miss serious illnesses such as cancer.

Report of a working party on chiropractic (King's Fund Centre bookshop, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF; £5.95, post free)

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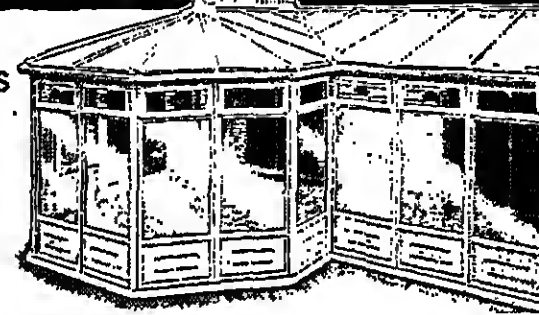
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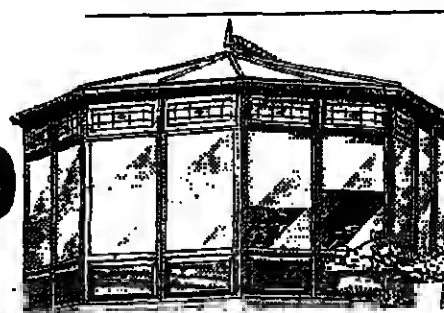
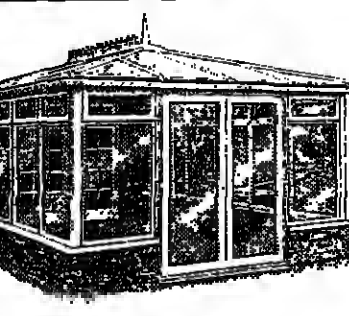
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Clarke acts to save police swamped by tide of paperwork

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MANAGEMENT consultants are to be charged with helping police cut the vast quantity of paperwork which is undermining their fight against crime, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, announced yesterday.

The private sector consultants will be charged with stemming the tide of paperwork that engulfs officers handling cases. Their task will be to recommend ways of cutting the number of forms that have to be filled in by police from arrest to the conclusion of a case.

Mr Clarke has acted only days after *The Times* reported that red tape was threatening to turn Britain's police officers into little more than pen-pushers. The home secretary said he had seen the report about detectives in danger of becoming clerks. "Police officers complain to me about the large amount of time they now spend on paperwork which has grown out of all proportion," he said.

He said that the "heaps of paperwork" had not been designed maliciously but were a result of the need to keep proper records of custody, interviews and court hearings in the interests of justice. But, he added, police interviewing suspects had the feeling that later they would have to spend hours transcribing the tape.

Complaints that the fight against crime is being overwhelmed by endless form-filling have brought about a review of procedures

A guilty plea heard at a magistrates' court involved police completing 16 forms, Mr Clarke said. The police must make sure that officers spent as much time as possible combating crime and not on unnecessary piles of paper. "I don't think that such a high proportion of a police officer's shift should be taken up behind a desk doing paper work," Mr Clarke said.

Other cases entail even more form-filling. Last week Chief Insp Clive Rintell, of Chelsea CID, talking to *The Times*, pointed to a file on a case of assault that contained 135 documents and another file involving 53 forms. Up to 20 types of form may be required by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, and senior officers from regional forces have expressed concern about the amount of paperwork involved in operating the criminal justice system. Mr Condon said recently that he would not be surprised if officers cautioned or warned suspects rather than face the paperwork that followed an arrest. Senior officers have also questioned the continuing reliance

on typewriters and pens rather than modern technology.

Mr Clarke wondered if there could be fewer forms involved in guilty pleas at magistrates' courts and if it was necessary for an officer to write out and then type a précis of an interview with a suspect.

A three-month study by consultants will see what can be done to reduce the burden of paperwork. The home secretary expected that the recommendation could be introduced without legislation.

His move was welcomed by the Association of Chief Police Officers last night. It said that it had been concerned for some time about levels of paperwork, which could be reduced by wider use of information technology and of civilians in certain areas of police work.

Car exhaust fumes linked to hay fever

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

CAR exhaust fumes could make some people more vulnerable to hay fever and asthma attacks, according to scientists.

Researchers at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, have found that chemicals in the fumes may act on the linings of the nose and lungs to trigger as much as a five-fold increase in cytokines, chemicals linked with the body's immune response.

The effect leaves people more vulnerable than normal to airborne allergens such as oak and grass pollen, which in turn makes them more likely to suffer sneezing, a runny nose and blocked air passages.

The researchers, led by Robert Davies, professor of respiratory medicine, exposed patients in sealed chambers to nitrogen oxides, ozone and other exhaust related chemicals for up to four hours. Afterwards, they were exposed to allergens such as pollen.

Levels of sneezing and mucus production were, on average, three times higher after patients had first been

exposed to exhaust chemicals.

Professor Davies said the research offered an explanation as to why hay fever levels in cities and in the countryside were similar. Urban hay fever cases were the result of low levels of pollen combined with pollution. In the countryside the reverse was the case, with high levels of pollen combining with low levels of pollution to give similar rates.

Dr Douglas Fleming, director of the Birmingham research unit of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said it was possible that exhaust fumes played a role in the rise in hay fever. However, he was sceptical that their role was significant in the 2 per cent of the population who see doctors for treatment.

Dr Fleming, whose unit has mapped cases of hay fever reported to GPs since 1981, said that in some ways the disease remained as perplexing as ever, with no significant regional differences and a large swing in cases from year to year.



Sneeze factor: research may explain why city and country dwellers suffer alike

Lessons on health risks dropped

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION REPORTER

GOVERNMENT health targets are being jeopardised as school lessons about the risks involved in smoking, drugs, alcohol and sex are squeezed off the timetable by the demands of the national curriculum, a report says today.

The National Foundation for Educational Research report, *Health Education Policies in Schools*, says that many targets set out in the recent *Health of the Nation* white paper cannot be achieved without school-based health education.

By the end of the decade, ministers want to halve the 8,500 pregnancies each year among under-16s. By next year they want to reduce smoking among 11- to 16-year-olds from 8 to 6 per cent.

The report, commissioned by the Health Education Authority and based on a survey of 542 schools, says that only one in eight primary schools teaches children about the dangers of drugs.

It adds that only 4 per cent have a policy against providing sex education beyond that required by the national curriculum.

NHS 'gives childless a poor deal'

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

COUPLES who find it difficult to have children are treated unfairly by the national health service, a report published yesterday claims.

Few health authorities give infertility a high priority, half do not even provide the most basic treatments and only 25 per cent can provide access to more advanced techniques such as in vitro fertilisation, according to the report, commissioned by Issue, the national fertility association. Yet many continue to fund less successful techniques such as tubal surgery.

John Dickson, director of Issue, said a combination of ignorance and traditional practices led many NHS managers to favour inappropriate treatments.

The ability to have a baby often depended on which health district a couple lived in. "It's time to shake the system up. The survey shows the haphazard, almost chaotic approach taken by the NHS, which pays no more than lip service to Britain's one-in-six infertile couples."

Letters, page 19

CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE youngest grandmaster in the history of chess, beating even Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov, is the Hungarian teenager Judith Polgar.

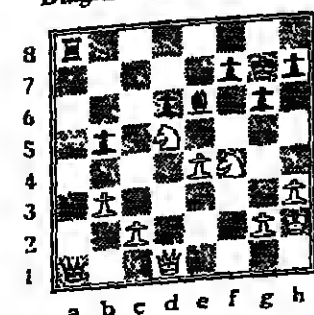
She obtained the grandmaster title by winning the Hungarian championship in December 1991, at the age of 15 years, 4 months and 28 days. Anyone who says that girls cannot play chess should be chastened by this glorious exploit. The standard book about the three Polgar sisters was written by Cathy Forbes, the twice British ladies' champion (*The Polgar Sisters - Training or Genius*, Batsford £10.99).

Last week, Judith got off to a good start in the tournament at Seville, Spain, where, among others, she is competing against Anatoly Karpov and our own Michael Adams.

White: Jorge Magero
Black: Judith Polgar
Seville 1993

Sicilian Defence
1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 exd4
3 Qd4 Nc6
4 Nxd4

Diagram of final position



THE TIMES
WORLD CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP

5	Nc3	Qc7
6	Bd2	a6
7	O-O	Nf6
8	Bd3	Bd7
9	h4	d6
10	e4	O-O
11	Kh1	Bd7
12	Bf3	Rab8
13	Qe1	Nd5
14	Og3	Nc4
15	Bc1	b5
16	exb5	axb5
17	Sae5	a5
18	Sae5	Nxe5
19	Bh6	Ng6
20	Bd2	Qc5
21	Nce2	Rie8
22	Qf2	Ne5
23	NH	Rd8
24	Nd3	Qc7
25	Bb4	Bf8
26	Qg3	Ra1
27	Ra1	Qb6
28	Bc3	g5
29	Qd1	Bg7
30	Qf2	Rc8
31	Bb2	Nf4
32	Bg4	Ng4
33	Qg1	Qa5
34	h3	Ne5
35	Qf2	Rf8
36	NH	Kf6
37	Nd5	Qd2
38	Bc3	Nf5
39	Qg3	Nd1
40	Qe1	Qe7
41	Qd1	Qe7
42	Ne2	Bd6
43	Bg7+	Kg7
44	Nd4	Rd8
45	Kf2	Qd1

White resigns

Winning move, page 44

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8.0% 36 Months	Nil Deposit 20% Monthly Payment £147.47 Total Payable £8,108.85	Nil Deposit 20% Monthly Payment £147.47 Total Payable £11,711.9

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When Red Ken ruled and Margaret Thatcher lost the battle for London

Today's local elections may bring to an end Labour's 12-year control of the Greater London Council. Despite evidence that opposition parties will do well when the votes are counted tonight in the counties outside London, Tony Banks' regime at County Hall looks to be in deep trouble. No party has controlled the GLC for such a long period before. Until the 1981 elections, power had alternated between the Tories and Labour. Ken Livingstone's party, which lifted the council leadership from Andrew Macintosh within 24 hours of that 1981 victory, paved the way for an extraordinary period in London government.

After the ousting of Labour's moderate leader, the council embarked upon its long struggle to give London cheap and attractive

Londoners have taken little notice of the elections in the shire counties. It could have been otherwise. If the Tories had not abolished the GLC, they could have been going to the polls today poised to re-elect, for a record fourth term, the Labour regime which swept Ken Livingstone to power in 1981. Tony Travers wonders how the course of history might have been different

public transport. Despite Bromley's courtroom success in the Fares Fair case, the Livingstone regime was, at least until the mid-1980s, successful in getting people off the roads.

Even the relentless efforts of the Conservative press to denigrate the GLC leader came to nothing. Indeed, their attentions afforded him hero status once Mrs Thatcher had embarked on her

catastrophic and failed attempt to abolish the council. By the 1983 general election, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Livingstone had become politically important to each other. In her eyes, he represented everything that was repellent in the new urban left; he was the justification for the policy to abolish the GLC and its metropolitan county sisters. She was the loathed right-wing figure who made him such an

important talisman for the dispossessed left.

The aftermath of that election gave Mr Livingstone his finest hour and Mrs Thatcher one of her worst. The government's defeat in the Lords allowed the natural majority for London-wide government to reassert itself in the Commons. The whips were vanquished here, as they were later to be with the ill-starred shops bill. Only the poll tax debate proved more politically disastrous.

But, even as his victory over the prime minister was being celebrated at the £1 million Hampstead to Streatham "Ten-Mile Street Party", Citizen Ken's luck was fading. The 1986 London-Irish Summit at Kenwood, involving Sinn Féin and sundry hangers-on, was a political flop. The new model

Labour party pulled the plug on what Neil Kinnock memorably called Ken's "absurd, abhorrent, adolescent anarchy".

The capital's social problems grew apace. After Labour's crushing victory in the 1985 GLC elections, and hot on the Tories' defeat in the Lords, government cash for London was stopped. Pitiful investment levels on the Underground were trimmed to virtually zero. The GLC's capital allocation for housing projects was slashed. Rates were capped. Whitehall's revenge was swift and effective.

The transport misery and visible homelessness of the late 1980s probably did more than all the other issues to ruin Mr Livingstone's image as the leader of a radical administration that

could stand out against the onslaught of Thatcherism. During 1987 and 1988, the GLC's low fares policy had to be reversed in an attempt to find resources to maintain the crumbling Tube. Efforts were made to privatise the fire brigade. Massive asset sales were sanctioned in an attempt to release cash for housing investment. During the crazy property boom of the late 1980s, even County Hall was rumoured to be up for sale.

Labour's majority was cut to just five in 1989. Threats of defection from the far left, in parallel with the two famous by-election defeats, meant that by early 1990 there were rumblings in the Labour group that their leader would have to go. The huge budget cuts of 1990 — a direct consequence of

creative accounting three years earlier — were the final straw. Thus, with a fearful symmetry, was Mr Livingstone deposed, just as he had removed Andrew Macintosh in 1981. Tony Banks and his modernised Labour supporters vanquished the one-time hero of the left. The parallels with what the Tories were doing to Mrs Thatcher just over the river were so close that no writer of fiction would have dared to invent them.

Mr Banks' concentration on "good, old-fashioned, Labour issues" of decent basic services and safe streets may have come too late to save Labour. Thames Television's recent opinion poll showed that Londoners want a change. Today's election may just put the Tories back in control of the biggest local authority in Europe.

Tory hold on councils threatened by upheaval

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Conservative party is tonight set to lose dozens of council seats and control of several of its English heartland counties in the first national test of political opinion since the general election.

More than 25 million adults are eligible to vote in local elections in England and Wales, which cover 47 counties and three-fifths of the land area of Britain. Recent polls suggest that the government's national problems will cost the Tories dear in county halls across the south of England, despite recent improvement in the economic indicators.

The party is also handicapped by its strong showing in the May 1989 shire elections when it gained nearly 100 seats and control of seven counties to take its tally to 18. These victories are all at risk today, with one poll last week showing Conservative support nationally at a post-election low of 32 per cent. Converted into county election seats, a slump of that size would mean the Conservatives losing control of all but three of their councils, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and West Sussex.

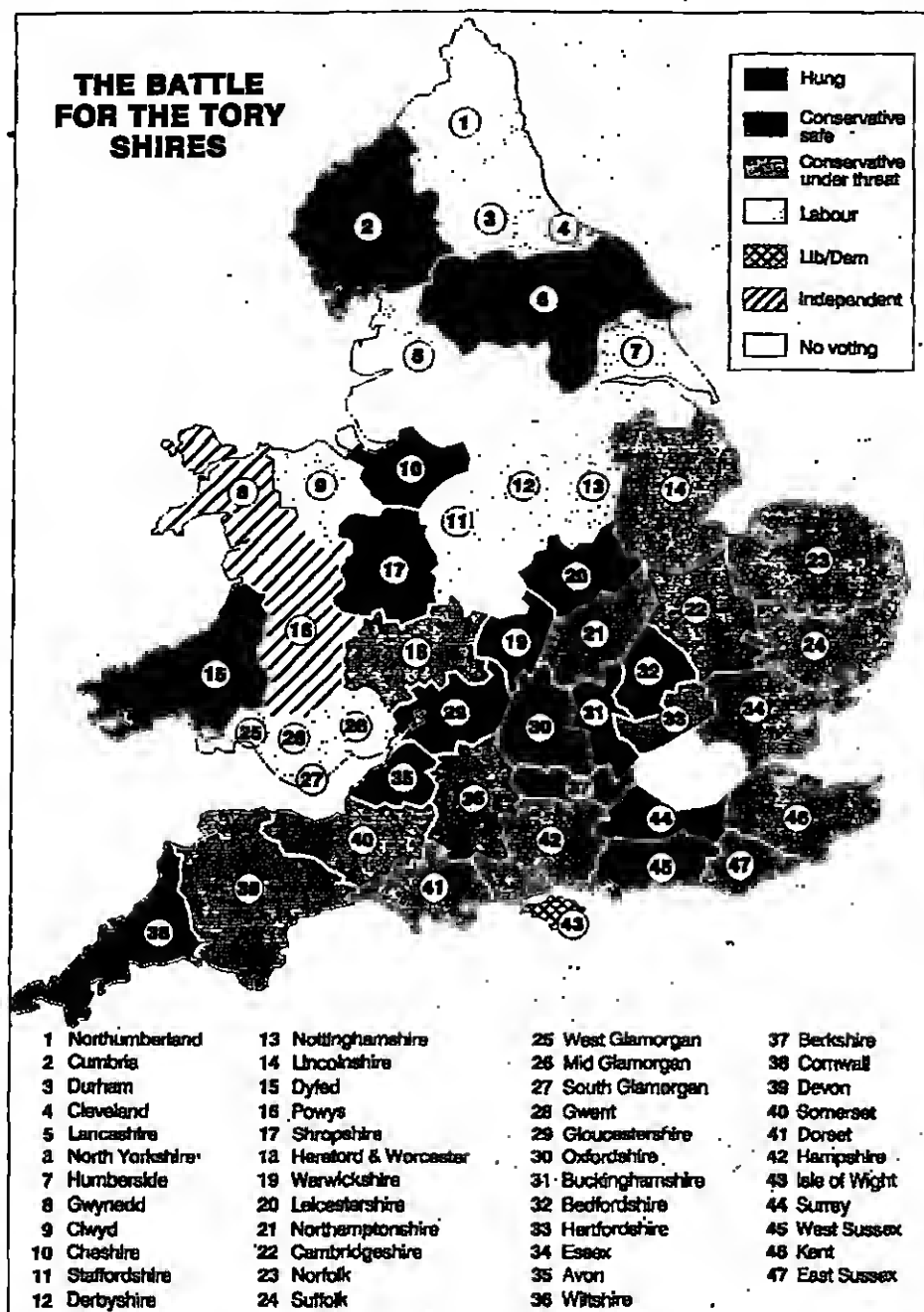
Although few of the counties are likely to pass into the hands of single opposition parties, the loss of overall control in such a wide swath of the country would represent a dramatic dilution of local political power for the party of national government. Even if the swing is much less dramatic, the Tories seem certain to lose control in Hereford and Worcester and Northampton-



shire, where only a chairman's casting vote keeps them in power; Wiltshire, where the support of an independent gives a majority of one, and Warwickshire, another county with the smallest possible majority for the Conservatives.

Counties such as Kent, where a history of unbroken Tory control dates back to the last century, and Essex, emblem of a more recent political success, are also vulnerable. But the Tories are only a handful of seats short of overall control in Bedfordshire, where they are kept in power by three rebel Labour councillors, and North Yorkshire.

National party attention will probably be most closely focused on Berkshire, where the outcome of the local elections will be complicated by the Westminster by-election taking place in the western half of the county. It also provides a classic case-study of trends in southern England's local politics in recent years. A traditional Tory home counties shire for 103 years, Berkshire has been controlled since last year by Labour and the Liberal Democrats operating under a formal pact. The two parties have even co-operated in elections, standing down candidates in wards where the



other party has a greater chance of defeating the Conservatives. Central Office would dearly love to welcome it back to the fold but is likely to be disappointed.

For the Liberal Democrats, the main ambition is to win back the ground lost in its disastrous 1989 showing. Winning control of any councils to add to the Isle of Wight would be an added bonus

with Somerset, Paddy Ashdown's home territory, at the top of the list.

Labour, which has eight English councils under overall control, will be looking to consolidate its dominant position in the north and make ground in southern counties where large urban populations provide a natural reservoir of votes. A key target is Avon, where Labour is only a

handful of seats short of overall control and a Labour vote is being sold as a protest against local government reforms.

Wales is likely to see far less upheaval, not least because today's elections are the last before the Welsh authorities are replaced by new unitary councils.

Leading article, page 19

Lib Dems make final push for Newbury

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats believe they are poised to win the Newbury by-election today, but left nothing to chance as they mounted a final push last night.

Although the confusion the government has found itself in over Maastricht in the past 24 hours cannot have helped the Tories cause, the Liberal Democrats returned to the homes of around 2,000 voters yesterday, previously identified as doubting Tories, to press the case for their candidate, David Rendel.

Needing a swing of 9.3 per cent to take the west Berkshire seat from the Tories, Mr Rendel also issued a letter to waverers insisting that a Liberal Democrat victory could force John Major to change unpopular policies — and some of his ministers.

As the 19 candidates set out on the final round of canvassing yesterday the Conservative contender, Julian Davidson, insisted that he was still persuading Conservative voters on the doorstep not to defect.

Liberal Democrat canvassers believe that their party's pro-referendum stance on the Maastricht treaty will prove to be a decisive factor. Voters will have the pick of a plethora of pro-referendum candidates today, most notably Alan Sked of the Anti-Federalist League, the former Sussex cricketer Robin Marlar, and the maverick Tory, John Browne.

Dr Sked has been handing out a three-page denunciation of the treaty. His message is: "Our right to self-determination must be preserved at all costs." Mr Marlar has also been prominent on the streets of Newbury, relaying his pro-referendum message through a megaphone.

Government faces legal action over Maastricht treaty

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government will now face a spate of legal actions which could go all the way up the House of Lords and even be referred to the European Court of Justice in the wake of its acceptance of the social chapter amendment to the Maastricht treaty bill.

The legal actions are being mounted on two main fronts: first, by the Tory Euro-sceptics, who will maintain that the amendment renders ratification illegal, although government law officers have said the opposite; and second, by trade unionists seeking to gain social chapter rights for British workers.

The legal challenge by the Euro-sceptics is essentially on broad constitutional grounds. The opponents maintain that the government, in ratifying the treaty, is acting without the parliamentary approval which in this case is required by European Community law.

The MPs are expected immediately to launch judicial review proceedings in the High Court. The court will first have to decide whether these may proceed before the Maastricht treaty legislation is formally ratified, although lawyers were uncertain yesterday about whether the courts would insist that the bill becomes law before legal action is launched.

If the courts decide that an issue of community law is involved, the High Court judges could at some point refer the case to the European Court of Justice for an interpretative ruling.

Martin Howe, a barrister informally advising the Tory Euro-sceptics, said: "The argument would be that the amendment blocks ratification because Parliament will not have incorporated the approved social protocol attached to the Maastricht treaty."

The Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, had argued that the amendment makes no difference and that only the crown could ratify treaties. As a general principle that was correct, but Mr Howe said that Sir Nicholas had "overlooked" the fundamental point of law of the institutions of the EC, which has been made part of our domestic law by the European Communities Act 1972.

The implication of that was that if the law needed amending, only Parliament could make the changes, he said.

The implications went beyond the circumstances of the Maastricht legislation, Mr

Howe added. If the Attorney-General was right, then the crown, or the government, could agree to spend "95 per cent of the Community budget on ruses for East Africa and not seek parliamentary approval."

High Court leave is likely to be sought in the first instance over whether proceedings can be brought over the government's intention to ratify the Maastricht treaty, or whether legal proceedings must await ratification and take the form of a challenge to measures implemented under the treaty.

Either way, lawyers believe it likely that the courts will want to await the passage of the bill through Parliament. "There are some problems over timing: it may be that the courts will take the view that judicial review cannot be brought until the act of Parliament is finalised."

Proceedings, in which the MPs will seek a declaration that ratification is unlawful are certain to be rushed through, but are still likely to take some months if appeals go to the House of Lords.

Formal ratification itself, in the wake of the bill's becoming law, could theoretically be held up if the Euro-sceptic MPs succeed in obtaining a High Court declaration that it should await the outcome of their legal challenge. But lawyers yesterday thought that unlikely.

The second limb of legal actions is being prepared by trade unionists who are preparing to challenge what they will say is the lack of workers' rights in this country under Maastricht compared with their counterparts in other member states.

Again, such a challenge by way of judicial review would have to be started in the UK courts but could end up in Europe if referred on a point of Community law. John Edmonds, the leader of the GMB general union, said: "The GMB will take the first opportunity of taking a case through the courts to establish social chapter rights for British workers."

He said on BBC Radio that there was the possibility of legal action on several fronts as a result of the government's acceptance of the social chapter but failure to apply it.

"The GMB will make the case to the European Court if necessary," the union said in a statement. Any legal action, however, would have to start in the UK courts and could only go to Europe on a referral from the British courts.

PETER RIDDELL

How to read the social chapter

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE revised social chapter appended to the Maastricht treaty allows the other 11 member states of the European Community to take action in a variety of areas covering workers' rights.

It seeks the "promotion of employment, improved living and working conditions, proper social protection, dialogue between management and labour, the development of human resources with a view to lasting high employment and the combating of exclusion (discrimination)." It also extends the use of qualified majority voting (QMV).

Under QMV the EC has power over working conditions, the consultation of workers, equal opportunities and anti-discrimination measures. Acting unanimously, the 11 can take action over social security, protection of workers where contracts are terminated, and worker directors. They can also spend money to promote job creation. The chapter gives organised man-

agement and labour a bigger role in implementing EC legislation. Pay, the right to join a union, the right to strike and the employer's right to impose a lock-out are excluded.

Britain's opt-out does not shield it against all social legislation. The existing treaty allows directives in areas such as working time and part-time workers, but usually Britain has a veto. The new chapter would allow the Commission to bring forward proposals Britain is blocking.

service by denying Labour, and the Tory Euro-sceptics, the satisfaction of defeating the government. That means more headaches ahead, both in the courts and when the Commons votes on the substance of the social chapter after the bill becomes law. No wonder we have not been focusing on the progress of trade union legislation.

Mr Major claimed the government had already fulfilled rather more than a third of the commitments in the Tory election manifesto. More manifesto pledges have been honoured in the parliamentary year since the elections of 1979, 1983 and 1987. The housing, asylum, lotteries, education and employment bills are well on the way to becoming law, while the council tax has been introduced, and the pace of change in schools and the health service has accelerated. The real question is not so much the quantity of legislation but the quality. Do these measures add up to a coherent programme?

One effect of the concentration on Maastricht has been a fragmentation elsewhere. Ministers have not been inactive: rather the opposite. They

Major tries to take the public's eye off Europe

JOHN Major wants us all to remember how busy the government has been apart from Maastricht. "Away from the smoke and fire at Westminster, we have been pushing ahead with our radical agenda," he told the Newspaper Society yesterday. A vast range of reforming legislation had been passing through Parliament, "in some cases almost without notice."

This is a fair point, though it smacks of "otherwise Mrs Lincoln how did you enjoy the play?" Maastricht and the economy have inevitably dominated public and parliamentary debates, crowding out other issues, as monetarists would say. That is partly the government's own fault in view of its tactical withdrawals and self-inflicted blunders.

Approval of the bill is now within sight, but the government's approach has often been crab-like — and seldom as stylish as yesterday's retreat by Douglas Hurd over the social protocol. After more than 24 hours of public uncertainty, he made his acceptance of the Opposition amendment sound like a victory. It was "finesome, undesirable, but in practice irrelevant" and he was doing everyone a

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

the 1992 election than after the elections of 1979, 1983 and 1987. The housing, asylum, lotteries, education and employment bills are well on the way to becoming law, while the council tax has been introduced, and the pace of change in schools and the health service has accelerated. The real question is not so much the quantity of legislation but the quality. Do these measures add up to a coherent programme?

One effect of the concentration on Maastricht has been a fragmentation elsewhere. Ministers have not been inactive: rather the opposite. They



have kept their heads down and carried on with their own departmental agendas. What has been absent too often has been a collective political view and discipline as energies. That accounted for the misreading of the public mood over pit closures last October and has contributed to the difficulties over tests in schools.

Mr Major sought to offer coherence around the themes of choice, opportunity and ownership, as well as proposals to turn over "some stones left

turned in the 1980s", such as the abolition of Neddys and Wages Councils. The examples he gave of forthcoming bills on crime and deregulation are hardly sufficient to substantiate a claim of "pushing through changes as profound and wide-ranging as anything we attempted in the 1980s". He has not yet created a magnet strong enough to counter Maastricht's distractions.

PETER RIDDELL

We know that the British house of commons, without shutting its doors to any merit in any class, is, by the sure operation of adequate causes, filled with everything illustrious in rank, in descent, in hereditary and in acquired opulence, in cultivated talents, in military, civil, naval, and political distinction, that the country can afford.

But suppose what we call commons were to have an almost physical inaptitude of the man to the function must be the greatest we can conceive to happen in the management of human affairs.

When men of rank sacrifice all ideas of dignity to an ambition without a distinct object, and work with low instruments and for low ends, the whole composition becomes low and base.

Does not something like this occur in France? Does it not produce something ignoble and inglorious? A kind of meanness in all the prevalent policy? A tendency to all that is done to lower along with individuals all the dignity and importance of the state?

Other revolutions have been conducted by persons, who, whilst they attempted of affected changes in the commonwealth, sacrificed their ambition by advancing the dignity of the people whose

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Cabinet likely to sanction extra brigade for Bosnia



Rifkind, in London yesterday, said enough soldiers were available

BRITAIN is ready to respond "very quickly" to a request from the United Nations to send a peacekeeping force to Bosnia, Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said yesterday. The commitment will, however, have a time limit.

The cabinet is expected to approve the deployment of a brigade of at least 6,000 troops if a ceasefire is agreed. Another 2,000 British servicemen and women attached to Nato's rapid reaction corps headquarters could also be sent if an alliance command structure is approved for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Rifkind said there were enough troops for the task if the UN sought a substantial contribution from Britain. He rejected calls from MPs for present cuts in army manpower to be reversed. He said, however, that British troops would not become involved in a long-term peacekeeping operation in Bosnia. The United States and France held the same view about their involvement in any peacekeeping mission.

The American operation in Somalia had set a precedent for future peacekeeping operations, Mr Rifkind said. America had sent in 25,000 troops and now, after five months, they were being withdrawn and replaced by soldiers from other countries. He hoped the

The government is prepared to make a substantial contribution to a UN operation, but only for a limited time, Malcolm Rifkind tells Michael Evans

Somalia example could be copied in Bosnia and elsewhere in future, with highly professional troops such as those from Britain, France and America being sent first, to be replaced by men from other UN member states.

"We have no fundamental problem about a reasonable deployment over a given period of time," Mr Rifkind said. "Clearly a UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia will be large by any standards and will be required for a number of years. But our view is that there should be some form of rotation. The size and scale and period of deployment will be crucial."

The defence secretary insisted that cuts in army manpower, from 156,000 to 119,000 by 1995 under the Options for Change defence review, and disruptions caused by regiments amalgamating, would not stop Britain from making a significant contribution in Bosnia. Army manpower stands at about 130,000. Dismissing units with duties elsewhere, such as Northern

Ireland, Belize, the Falklands and Cyprus, between 50,000 and 60,000 soldiers would normally be available for operations such as the duties in Bosnia.

However, Mr Rifkind said 25,000 soldiers from that pool were not available because they were with units that were being amalgamated or relocated. That left about 30,000 troops from which to pick a force for Bosnia. Mr Rifkind said the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire, now taking over from the Cheshires in Bosnia, could be absorbed into a peacekeeping force. He anticipated that Britain would be allocated central Bosnia for peacekeeping duties because it was an area with which British troops were now familiar.

He said a time limit would be set because it was policy not to become involved in long-term commitments abroad. "When we went to the Gulf, we went on the basis that we would be there for several months," he said. In spite of pressure to cancel the army

cuts programme, Mr Rifkind said he was satisfied on the basis of military advice that Britain could meet its obligations with the resources planned under the review. The cuts programme had included the assumption that Britain would want at some stage to deploy a significant force to another country to deal with a particular crisis. "But we don't want our armed forces to be used for a long-term commitment which is not being shared by other countries," he said.

Mr Rifkind said there were no plans to bring back from the Adriatic the naval task force, headed by the carrier HMS *Ark Royal*. A battery of six 105mm guns was sent with the task force and they will also remain in the area, ready for airlifting into Bosnia if required for protecting British troops. He said if there was a genuine ceasefire and all heavy artillery was neutralised, the British guns could be brought home.

Mr Rifkind said discussion of air strikes and other military options could be "put on the back burner" for the moment, although it was vital to maintain maximum pressure on Belgrade to ensure a ceasefire. "If the ceasefire is implemented, the military options can be given less emphasis," he

said. "However, it's very important that the guns stop firing. If that happens, it will be such a huge prize that all else becomes of secondary significance."

He admitted that it was unrealistic to expect a 100 per cent ceasefire but he did not anticipate that the odd pocket of fighting would stop the peacekeeping mission from going ahead. "We have British, Canadian, French and Spanish forces in Bosnia who will be able to report what is happening on the ground, whether the guns have stopped, whether road blocks are being dismantled and whether the heavy weapons have been taken to places where they can be supervised."

"That evidence can be coming in while the UN and Nato are preparing a peacekeeping force. Even if there is a ceasefire tomorrow, we cannot have thousands of UN troops arriving in 24 hours. There will have to be a period of preparation and deployment," he said. "During that time the world will see whether the people who have signed the ceasefire are prepared to respect it."

Mr Rifkind said it would be difficult to be precise about the definition of a ceasefire. "But we'll be able to tell whether the ceasefire has achieved sufficient success to justify sending in peacekeepers," he said.

US rejects control of peace force by Boutros Ghali

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

UNITED Nations observers were prevented from visiting Zepa yesterday as Serb forces continued their assault on the besieged Muslim town.

The new threat to establishing peace in Bosnia was echoed in New York, where America threatened not to participate in any new United Nations peacekeeping force unless Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, agrees to allow Nato a wide measure of control. In a working paper, he has asked the UN Security Council to give him and Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway, his special representative, power to interfere in the day-to-day decisions affecting the

proposed 70,000-strong UN force.

American officials say this demand is "totally unacceptable" if Washington is to provide the 40 to 45 per cent of the force that it has offered. At a closed meeting of the 15-nation security council on Tuesday night, Madeleine Albright, America's ambassador to the UN, reportedly made clear that Washington's participation in a proposed force would be conditional on the world body satisfying its concerns about command and control.

"If the United States is to participate in such an operation, we will have to be

convinced that the plan is one in which there is a military structure in place that, in all its dimensions, can ensure the safety of the troops and personnel on the ground as well as one that in our collective judgment offers the best hope for success," she said.

Dr Boutros Ghali said in his working paper that the theatre commander of the new force, expected to be Admiral Jeremy Boorda of Nato's southern command, should report daily to the UN special representative, adding: "If the special representative judged that proposed operations were inconsistent with the security council's authorisation, he would immediately inform the secretary-general who, if he agreed, would bring the matter to the attention of the security council."

"The secretary-general would have the right to ask the theatre force commander for special reports at any time he deemed necessary," the paper said. "The secretary-general would also be authorised to take the initiative in recommending to the security council any measures he judged necessary to reorient, correct or even bring to an end the military operations."

Washington wants the chain of operational command to run to the security council through Supreme Allied Command Europe and the North Atlantic Council rather than through the secretary-general and his special representative. American officials argue that only Nato is capable of conducting such an extensive operation.

As rebel Serbs leaders met to decide if they would ratify the international peace accord for Bosnia, their military forces were continuing their large-scale assault on Zepa, one of the last remaining Muslim communities in the east of the country. A group of UN observers sent to investigate the plight of the enclave was turned back at a Bosnian Serb checkpoint, a UN spokesman said. The observers, who had been given high-level Serb permission to travel, were last night returning to the UN's Bosnia headquarters at Kiseljak and would try again to reach Zepa today.

Crucial debate, page 1
Photograph, page 22



Standing on ceremony: a soldier salutes Constantinos Mitsotakis, left, the Greek prime minister, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, as they arrive at the Bosnian Serb parliament in Pale for yesterday's debate on whether the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia should be approved

Paradise Valley awaits death of two-headed calf

FROM TIM JUDAH IN PALE

The Bosnian Serb deputies make no secret of their hatred for the peace plan by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. It is a two-headed calf, muttered one darkly. But it was on the strength of this that their leaders appealed to them to support it. After all, two-headed calves do not survive, ran the argument, so neither will this, and it is better to sign up and achieve "final victory" through peace.

It was not a happy day in the sweltering heat of the restaurant of the Paradise Valley hotel. Not only had President Milosevic of Serbia come to urge the deputies to ratify the plan, but so had Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, and President Cosic of the rump Yugoslav.

They sat in serried ranks as the visitors appealed, and aboiled, "spoke directly" and above all begged. Behind the scenes, Mr Milosevic may have been threatening, but in public he said he was "being honest". He told the deputies: "There is no alternative," adding that the real fight for "liberty" had already been won on the battlefield. The applause was polite but hardly overwhelming.

The visitors had one clear message. Unless they accepted the plan, the risk of military intervention was very real and unless they signed they risked losing everything. They must not gamble.

When Mr Mitsotakis arrived, he stumbled into a guard of honour which he was too polite to refuse to inspect. Mr Milosevic managed to avoid this apparent acknowledgement of the sovereignty of the Bosnian Serb state. In theory, the plan demands the dismantling of any such state. "Do not think about it too much," urged Mr Cosic. "Accept it."

Down the mountain in Pale, where the Bosnian Serbs have made their headquarters, ordinary people milled about and gossiped about the important visi-

tors. For months, they have been told by their leaders and official media that the plan is bad, that they are en route for a greater Serbia, and that they will never have to live with Muslims and Croats again. With the threat of military intervention looming, and the recent about-turn of Mr Milosevic and now Radovan Karadzic, their leader, they have been left confused.

"I support the plan," said one soldier, who said the Muslims had burned his house near Sarajevo. "We should accept it. But we can never sign anything with [Bosnian President] Izetbegovic." Patrolling Nato jets droned above.

"I think they will say no," said Todor Dutina, the director of the Bosnian Serb news agency. "This plan has nothing to do with reality and I don't believe in intervention. If they are going to intervene they are going to do whatever we decide. The final goal is the atomisation of former Yugoslavia."

Some Serbs are making sure that the plan can not come into effect, even if it is signed. The road to Pale leads through Konjevic Polje, a Muslim village which fell to the Serbs in mid-March. Houses that were still intact then are still being set alight so that their inhabitants cannot return.

On the border with Serbia, one soldier chuckled when asked what he would do when he was "demilitarised". He said: "I'll sew a 'police' patch on my arm. There's nothing to say that police can't wear khaki."

Meanwhile, in New York, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, called on the security council yesterday to set up an international tribunal in The Hague with broad powers to try those responsible for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

He said that the court should have jurisdiction to try crimes ranging from genocide and forced deportation to wanton destruction of towns.

Clinton faces struggle to win over sceptical public on deployment

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ONE way or another, President Clinton will shortly be ordering US servicemen to Bosnia, but he has barely begun the task of persuading a profoundly sceptical American people that such a hazardous step is necessary.

If Bosnia's Serbs adhere to the Vance-Owen peace plan, Mr Clinton will within weeks be dispatching more than 20,000 US troops to the Balkans as part of a multinational peace force. If they violate the plan, the US Air Force will almost inevitably end up bombing Serb positions.

Scarcely a third of the public favour any sort of intervention in Bosnia, and without that backing it is far from clear that Mr Clinton could secure the congressional authorisation he is likely, but not compelled, to seek before putting US servicemen in danger.

■ Within weeks, US troops may be off to Bosnia. The timing is critical: if the president delays to win over domestic opinion, they could get caught in fresh ethnic crossfire

There are presently as many views in Congress as there are in congressmen. Some invoke memories of the Holocaust and Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler, others of how the US was stuck in Vietnam, still others of how 241 US peacekeepers died in a terrorist attack on their Beirut barracks on October 1983.

"This is truly an issue on which members are torn," said Thomas Foley, the House Speaker, and few yesterday were prepared to predict confidently that Congress would back Mr Clinton without public pressure, although congressional leaders said later that there would be bipartisan support for the president.

Even after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Senate voted only 52-47 in favour of military action, the House 250-183. "The president has to do a much better job of selling [military intervention] to the American people," said Dennis DeConcini, the Democratic chairman of the Senate intelligence committee.

Mr Clinton has promised an address to the nation after Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, returns from his European tour this week. Yesterday, he used a White House reception for US troops returning from Somalia to promote the idea of American involvement around the world. "We still face threats.

We still have responsibilities. The world has not seen the end of evil, and America can lead other countries to share more of the responsibilities that they ought to be shouldering," he said.

One of the key dilemmas with which the administration and the allies are still grappling is how rapidly to deploy peacekeepers if the Bosnian Serbs do accept the Vance-Owen peace plan. Mr Clinton would enjoy greater domestic support if he waited a few weeks to establish that the warring parties were abiding by the plan, thereby ensuring that the multinational force did not find itself caught in crossfire. But the longer the delay, the more chance of new fighting erupting.

Domestic support would also be enhanced if US servicemen were under direct American, rather than UN or Nato, control — another issue that has yet to be resolved.

Yeltsin says Russia may send men

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin said yesterday that Russia would send peacekeeping troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina if Bosnian Serbs accept the Vance-Owen peace plan and he did not rule out supporting the use of force if they refused.

His statement, coinciding with the vote due in the self-appointed Bosnian Serb parliament, emphasised Russia's commitment to the West's strategy to end the conflict. It signalled a last-minute effort by Moscow to pressure the Serbs into accepting the deal.

In a joint statement issued after Mr Yeltsin and Andrei Kozyrev, his foreign minister, held talks with Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, both sides said they would commit "appropriate military forces of their own to assist in peacekeeping endeavours" if the parliament in Pale approved the plan.

The statement, the toughest yet to be signed by Moscow, provides explicitly for Russia to take part in "new, tougher measures" if the plan is rejected. It added that "no measures are prejudged or excluded from consideration", but it stopped short of an outright commitment to the use of force to end the fighting.

Speaking after the talks, Mr Kozyrev said Russia was willing to offer troops to guard a land corridor linking Bosnian Serb territory and Serbia but he declined to say how Russia would proceed if the Serbs continued their aggression.

Mr Christopher said the two sides were "on the same wavelength" and emphasised that the tone of agreement reached at last month's Vancouver summit had continued in Moscow. He said the two leaders would confer by telephone after the Bosnian Serb vote. General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defence minister, said the Russian military and government were "united in their concern" for Bosnia.

British troops battle to bail out frontline bear

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN VITEZ

TROOPS never like to leave a battleground knowing that they are leaving a comrade behind. It is thus with deep sadness that the Cheshire battalion group, which has been based in central Bosnia, is beginning to pack up and go without MacKenzie.

He is a European brown bear in Croat hands who has been adopted by the British troops as a mascot. The Croats are keeping MacKenzie in a small cage on the front line a few miles from the British base. Named after Major General Louis MacKenzie, the gruff Canadian former commander of United Nations forces in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, the bear has become a bit of a celebrity.

The British soldiers have offered £2,000 for him and



Prisoner of war: Victor Watkins of Liberty feeds MacKenzie in his Croatian jail.

their patrols stop daily beside his cage to feed him leftovers from the cookhouse. His new owners, unfortunately, have so far been unwilling to sell.

"Some soldiers came across the bear, caged and hungry, at

the back of a restaurant one day out on patrol after there was heavy fighting and the area was captured by Croat forces," said Major James Myles, the spokesman for the British forces at their Bosnian

headquarters. "It would seem his Muslim owner kept him to attract customers, but left him behind when he fled the area."

Victor Watkins, the campaign director of Liberty, a charity established to help

bears in distress, has now arrived in Bosnia in an attempt to negotiate MacKenzie's release and to transport him to a newly established bear reserve at Amino, northern Greece. "We regularly rescue bears like MacKenzie, for instance performing bears owned by gypsies in Europe or bears used for baiting in Pakistan, so we were pleased to help out here in Bosnia," he said.

British army engineers have agreed to build a cage and transport the animal to Croatia, where he can be flown to safety, but the Croats will still not part with him. Not all hope is lost, however, and MacKenzie could yet escape from the battle zone and retire to a quieter region of the Balkans. "If the Croats won't sell him, maybe we will just have to free him ourselves," one soldier said darkly.

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Mandela says that history demands Britain must help

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

INSISTING that Britain bore prime responsibility for sowing the seeds of violent upheaval in South Africa, Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, told MPs in London yesterday that they now had a particular duty to help his country achieve democracy and prosperity.

"History demands of you that you help us achieve a speedy transition to a non-racial and non-sexist democracy because your very national interest requires you to do so," he said. "This, history has decreed, and not the sentimental heart of an old man."

Addressing MPs from all parties in the Palace of Westminster, the 74-year-old ANC president said it was from Parliament itself that

"there issued decisions which imposed on my country and people a condition of existence which condemned us, as South Africans, to seek to resolve our conflicts not through peaceful means but by other than peaceful means. He added, with emotion: "Your right to determine your own destiny was used to deny us to determine our own."

But in paying tribute to Britons who opposed apartheid from a sense of moral obligation, he said the British government must now play a role in the peace process in South Africa and in rebuilding and restructuring its economy. Specifically he appealed to Britain to use its contacts with all political actors "to persuade them to abandon

their selfish and sectarian positions and stop blocking movement forward."

The government should use its influence to ensure the earliest possible establishment of the transitional executive council and the related commissions. He added that, as South Africa emerged from 30 years of illegality, its leaders lacked experience of elections, parliamentary practice and administration. Britain should therefore extend "all-round assistance to us". He called for direct investment, the opening of new markets and help in creating jobs for millions of unemployed.

"Violence, he said, was a matter of grave concern". He took very seriously reports that white right wing groups had put African leaders and activists on death lists. The South African government had to do a lot more to deal with this, and Britain too should put pressure on Pretoria to carry out its obligations on violence.

Four police officers, including a woman, were killed yesterday and five wounded in an ambush that brought a grim new dimension to violence in South Africa. Unlike the generally random attacks that claimed the lives of 275 policemen last year, the pre-drawn ambush in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, was executed with a chilling military precision that has been relatively rare in South Africa.

As a police bus carrying 23 men and women pulled up at traffic lights in the Dobsonville area, gunmen opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles from both sides of the road. Some of the fire was directed at the vehicle's tyres to make sure it could not get away. Some of the police managed to return the fire and some of the gunmen may have been hit.

In London, on his way to lunch with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, Mr Mandela was asked about the Soweto ambush, and responded by condemning all violence.



Mandela: government must use its influence

Denmark wavers under pressure to accept treaty

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN COPENHAGEN

AS THE big guns of Westminster's Maastricht debate rumble in the distance, Denmark's opposition to the treaty appears to be weakening — if Jens Bojsen-Møller's opinions are any guide.

Sitting in a Tivoli gardens bar, he is wavering between again voting "no" to the European Community treaty or switching to a "yes". A Copenhagen student and medal-winning Olympic yachtsman, Mr Bojsen-Møller is, in common with most Danes, not fond of the EC. His heart tells him to vote "no", but his head is beginning to resign him to acceptance.

"Being a doubler," he says, "I will probably decide in the voting booth. That's what I did last time and we're having the same referendum as we had last year."

The question of whether Danes are being asked to pronounce on the same treaty or something new lies at the heart of a campaign that has just under a fortnight to run. The Danish establishment, pushing a "yes" with less complacency than last time, emphasises two big changes. Denmark, the country's leaders claim, brought the EC down to earth when its voters rejected Maastricht last June. The shockwaves wrecked the timetable for monetary union and a more flexible, open and accountable Community will emerge. Secondly, the whole EC agreed, in Edinburgh last

December, that Denmark need not take part in a single currency or an EC defence policy. Thus, the government argues, Danes can safely opt for "Maastricht Lite".

But Mr Bojsen-Møller is not yet persuaded. "In two years, it will be different. As time passes, the union will be more complete. They cut off bits of our independence like slicing salami."

His ear-ringed friend, Niels Westergaard, remains alarmed: the apparently comforting footnotes to Maastricht are a confidence trick. He believes, as does roughly one Dane in five, that Denmark should never have joined the EC. The Community seems to them a distant and monstrous harpocure farce in which herds of Roman Catholic peasants in the south despoil Denmark's welfare state, environmental laws and autonomy.

The EC threat of a "Maastricht II" without Denmark has worked. The anti-treaty campaign is trying to steady the nerves of its followers. One opposition poster features Denmark as a tiny unconquered outpost on the tip of Europe, drawn in the style of Asterix the Gaul's village, holding out against the Roman legions. But the voters determined to make a last stand have dwindled.

Treaty battle, page 1
Legal action, page 10

Fighting talk: Giulio Andreotti calling at a Rome press conference yesterday for the Italian senate to lift his legal immunity and allow prosecutors to try to prove alleged ties between the former prime minister and the Mafia

Italian party acts over graft

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE beleaguered Italian Socialist party agreed yesterday that in future its members of parliament must vote to lift the immunity of deputies implicated in corruption charges.

The agreement, arrived at after an all-night meeting, amounted to a compromise by Giorgio Benvenuto, the new party leader, who had threatened to resign unless there was a purge of suspect party officials. The party's national executive had proposed that those under investigation in Italy's anti-corruption drive, Operation Clean Hands, would have the option of resigning voluntarily or facing suspension.

But Signor Benvenuto appeared content with the compromise when the executive agreed that Socialist MPs must vote to lift the immunity of their colleagues. Ten of the 37 members of the national executive are under investigation, as are 34 of its 91 MPs in the chamber of deputies and ten of the 37 Socialist senators.

Today, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the new prime minister, will present his government's programme, prior to a parliamentary vote of confidence expected next week.

Mitterrand did not ring back fraught Bérégovoy

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

DESERTED by his friends, a lonely and desperate Pierre Bérégovoy tried in vain to meet President Mitterrand to discuss his fears that he would be dragged deeper into financial scandal, according to press reports yesterday.

The fresh clues to the former prime minister's state of mind before his suicide were published by *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the investigative weekly, as the media and court officials expressed amazement over Mitterrand's charge that Bérégovoy had been "thrown to the dogs". As *Liberation* put it: "Thrown by whom and to which dogs?"

The picture of Bérégovoy's anguish presented by *Le Canard* and other newspapers confirmed comments from contrite Socialist leaders that the prime minister of the party's final months in power was shunned by colleagues and the president after the huge electoral defeat in March. Always regarded by the party's elite as an outsider and a bumpkin, *Le Canard* said, the self-taught former prime minister had made himself a nuisance with his fretting over the affair of his interest-free loan from the late

businessman Roger Patrice Pelat.

After failing to return calls from his long-time collaborator, Mitterrand was alerted at the end of last week about his depressed state, *Le Canard* said. The president telephoned him last Thursday and made an appointment to meet him on Monday.

The weekly journal, which broke the news of the Pelat loan and publishes reliable insider accounts from the political world, quoted Mitterrand as telling one of his confidants the day after the suicide that he had "not sensed any urgency" in Bérégovoy's voice. "Perhaps I should have told him to come round that same evening. But he was talking normally. I didn't feel the least danger."

Bérégovoy, who took his life with his bodyguard's Magnum 357 last Saturday evening, was irrationally convinced, said *Le Canard*, that he could be charged and even jailed. Passionately attached to his image of integrity, he feared that he and his family would be dragged through the mud when one of his former subordinates stands trial on June 3 for insider dealing.

"Bérégovoy believed that a vast plot was under way and that it would only end with his final fall."

The former prime minister was certain to be cited at the trial of Alain Boubill, his one-time chief aide, who is charged with helping Pelat make a profit on shares of the American Triangle company when it was bought by the state-owned French firm Pechiney. *Le Canard* also reported that Bérégovoy had not fully repaid the loan of a million francs from Pelat as he claimed when the affair became public in February.

Bérégovoy as a person seemed almost forgotten yesterday as the polemics raged over whether or not he had been "murdered" by the media, as François Léonard, the defence minister, put it. Who is lynching whom? *Le Canard* wondered, pointing out that M Léonard has suffered his own troubles with the law. He and Laurent Fabius, the former prime minister and Socialist leader, were indulging in an "unfathomable business" by turning on journalists when they have found a useful wheeze for avoiding facing questions about themselves.

Khmer Rouge attacks Chinese

Phnom Penh: Khmer Rouge guerrillas have attacked a Chinese army engineering unit and adjoining Polish logistics facility in Kompong Thom province, central Cambodia, the United Nations said yesterday. It was the first time the Maoist faction had turned its guns on the country that was its main arms supplier in the 13-year civil war.

China's foreign ministry, without naming the Khmer Rouge, rebuked its one-time ally, saying: "The Chinese government is opposed to violence of any form and strongly condemns acts which jeopardise the safety of the UN peacekeeping personnel."

Eric Falt, spokesman for the peacekeepers, said about 200 Khmer Rouge fired rockets, mortars and rifles at the peacekeepers' positions in the two-hour attack on Tuesday. Nobody was hurt. (Reuters)

Treaty delay

Moscow: Ratification by the Russian parliament of the second strategic arms reduction treaty is delayed and unlikely this year, according to visiting American senators, and so is implementation of the first START treaty by the former Soviet republics.

Uzbeks accused

Moscow: Uzbekistan was accused by the Helsinki Watch group of using censorship, imprisonment and beatings to quell dissent. The central Asian state's human rights record was characterised by violations of freedom of expression, it said. (AP)

Re-election bid

Tehran: President Rafsanjani of Iran is to contest the presidential elections on June 11, the *Hamshahri* newspaper reported. A pragmatist who favours economic reform, he is widely expected to win a second four-year term with ease. (Reuters)

Waco clues

Washington: About two-thirds of the 75 bodies so far recovered from the Branch Davidian cult compound in Waco had suffered gunshot wounds, according to investigators. But they are still unable to say how the victims were shot or by whom.

Ballet nuisance

Melbourne: A local legalised brothel is complaining that ballet students at a school next door are harassing and scaring away customers, by congregating outside. The brothel's owners have asked Victoria state administrators to close down the school. (AP)

Steel strike set to spread across east Germany as talks collapse

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BERLIN

THE east German steel strike looked set to spread across the region yesterday after 17 hours of negotiations between union leaders and employers collapsed.

As the strike entered its third day, union leaders said that the number of factories to be shut down in the state of Saxony would be doubled by the end of the week. "Our answer to the outrageous stance of the metal employers will be an expansion of the strike much earlier than we had planned," said Hasso Düvel, chief negotiator of the IG Metall union in Saxony.

Steel workers downed tools on Monday in east Germany's first legal strike for 60 years after employers refused to honour an agreement to boost

■ Union leaders are seeking to double the number of factories shut in Saxony by the end of the week. Employers plan to lock out workers who want pay deals honoured

their wages by 26 per cent, to match West German levels. They have offered a 9 per cent rise instead.

As the gulf widened between the two sides, employers said they may have to consider locking out the steel workers. They added that presently all efforts to reach a compromise looked doomed.

The talks broke down after 17 hours when employers demanded that local factories be given the option of negotiating their own pay deals with staff, German television said. Herr Düvel, however, said that the two sides had reached

agreement on some points, including delaying the equitable pay rise and arranging a timetable for implementing it. He said that employers were willing in principle to abide by the agreement to gradually adjust east German wages to match West German levels.

By yesterday, 30,000 metal and steel workers had stopped work in the three states of Saxony, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. One union official said the strike looked set to last until the end of next week.

For the moment, there appears to be no solution in sight

to the dispute. Striking workers remain angry that employers had renege on their agreement. The employers claim they currently do not have the money to increase wages by so high a level and that many east German firms are unable to meet the higher wage bills.

Strikers on the picket lines angrily dismissed these claims. "They raise MPs' salaries but here they make cuts," said Birgit Gartner, 43, standing on the picket line at the steel plant in the town of Brandenburg. "I am a single parent and I get paid DM 1,500 (€625) a month."

If the strike does spread throughout east Germany, where 330,000 are employed in the metal and steel industries, it could have a devastating effect on the already ravaged economy here.

Bavarian barracks echo to Nazi songs

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN



Nazi note: war marches are back in fashion

GERMAN soldiers celebrated the renaming of their barracks by singing Nazi-era songs and requesting a five-minute contribution from guests towards a "war chest", according to the party, according to politicians who attended the party.

Social Democrats, Free Democrats and Greens yesterday spoke of the "incredible insensitivity" of the soldiers in the Bavarian barracks, now called the Franz Josef Strauss barracks, after the late conservative Bavarian leader. His two sons were in the audience as soldiers chanted the song of *Wehrmacht* paratroopers, "Red shines the sun".

One of the verses, viewed as particularly martial, has been banned by the general staff since 1980. But a less aggressive verse, sung at Tuesday night's celebrations, and referring to being "ready for take-off against the enemy" was enough to cause worried statements from politicians in Munich.

Much of the evening was spent applauding members of the unit who will be serving with the UN mission in Somalia, the closest Germans have come to any kind of ground combat role since the second world war.

Politicians have called for an investigation into the af-

fair. They are nervous the mood is shifting in the army and that old fighting legends from the second world war could be revived.

Similar suspicions were aroused on May Day when witnesses claim they heard federal border troops, marching towards demonstrators in Berlin, sing the Nazi Horst Wessel song.

□ Rostock: Forty-four people were arrested after a neo-Nazi mob hurled stones and smoke bombs at a left-wing women's centre and a youth club in this eastern German city, which was hit by racist violence last year. Nobody in the buildings was hurt. (AFP)

Officer in May Day clash dies

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

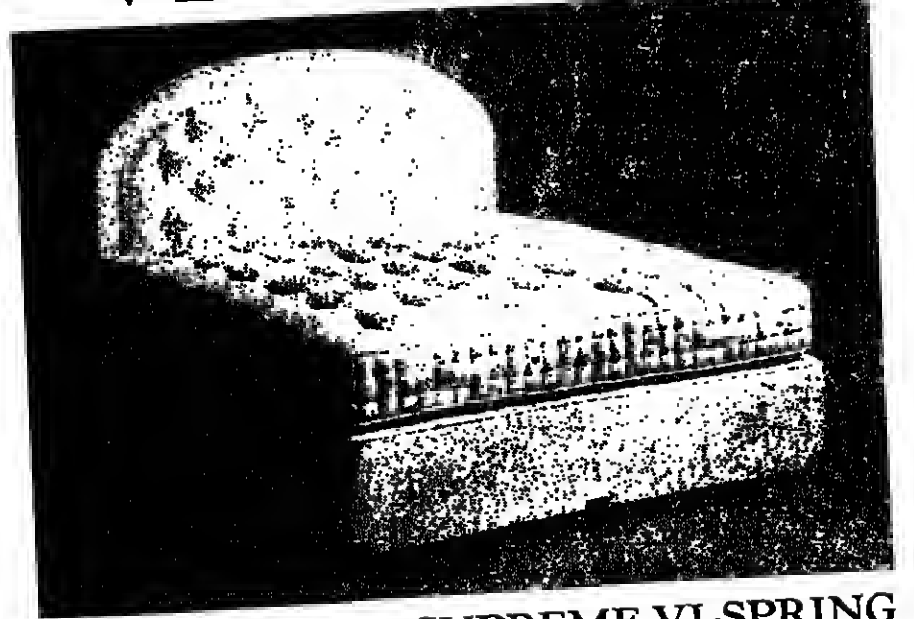
A POLICEMAN injured in the May Day demonstrations died yesterday, fuelling fears that tension between security forces and headline opposition forces could worsen as pro- and anti-government demonstrators prepare for further protests on Sunday, Veterans' Day.

Vladimir Toloknev, the father of an 11-month-old baby, died without regaining consciousness. His head was crushed when a lorry reversed into another placed across the marchers' route by police.

President Yeltsin has vowed to take "stern measures" to prevent a repetition of the violence, in which 150 people were hurt. In a statement issued by Viktor Chernomyrdin, his prime minister, Mr Yeltsin said: "We are dealing with an open attempt by an extreme communist minority to knock Russia society off the peaceful path of reforms and impose political violence on the country."

Final results of last month's referendum showed Mr Yeltsin won 58.7 per cent support for his rule and 53 per cent backing for his radical reform policies. The 514 complaints of irregularities had not affected the result. □ Trip postponed: Mr Yeltsin's planned visit to Japan this month has been put off until later in the year. (Reuters)

VI-SPRING

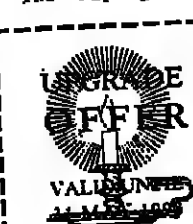


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Wide-boy or would-be English gentleman? Alice Thomson looks at the enigma of a missing tycoon



Gone: Baggrave Hall in Leicestershire, sold for £4 million — a gentleman's house but Nadir was "not trying to be an English gentleman. He is a Turkish gentleman"

Nadir's goodbye to all this

His cars seemed to say it all. First there was the 1986 Ferrari Testarossa registration AN11 in rosso red with cream leather interior (it was used only for the shopping). Then there was the Bentley Continental registration AN6, the Range Rover with brown hide interior, the BMWs, the Mercs and a couple of Volvos. In some ways Asil Nadir epitomised the self-made tycoon of the 1980s. He was the wide boy who had built up a rag-trade business in London's East End to a £2 billion empire to squander it on fripperies before going bust. The image was reinforced by his beautiful former wife and model Ayesha, who arrived at his first appearance at Bow Street magistrates court in a dark fur-trimmed coat and spent hours on her mobile phone.

At the same time his lifestyle had the trappings of the English landed gentry. One son went to Eton, he owned a 700-acre estate in Leicestershire and he even reared pedigree prize cattle (although he didn't like meat

and sponsored polo days at Windsor.

But Mr Nadir has never fitted either description easily. Despite loving the company of beautiful women he was no night-clubbing playboy. He has two sons by Ayesha, who he has married and divorced twice and another two by a woman he never married. He is now married to a Turkish woman, Abide. In 30 years in Britain he never broke into the ranks of the English establishment (although he has always had powerful political friends in Turkey). According to his former wife "He is not trying to be an English gentleman. He is a Turkish gentleman."

Mr Nadir had a £3 million town house in Aldford Street, Mayfair, another property in Bishop's Avenue, Hampstead, on "Millionaires' Row", and he owned Tudor Baggrave Hall in Leicestershire, which sold for £4 million. But these were just tastes.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, he has always had impeccable taste. Where he knew he had not, he brought in the experts. Henry Kissin-



Ger was one. The former US Secretary of State advised him on interior designing.

When Mr Nadir married Ayesha for the second time he bought her a palatial home on the Bosphorus which had once belonged to an Ottoman pasha. And on his final binge he bought the Grade I listed Burley House at Burley on the Hill, Leicestershire, one of Britain's finest Palladian mansions.

But it was at the Polly Pock headquarters, in Berkeley Square that Mr Nadir excelled himself, spending £7 million in three years. Valerie Grove, who once interviewed him there for *The Sunday Times*, says: "Most powerful businessmen go for minimalism in their offices. But not Mr Nadir. His office was rich, opulent and colourful with endless draped curtains and brocades, very Turkish. Wealth oozed out of every

crevice and it was magnificent in every detail. I found it rather consoling to find someone who had time for the ornate."

Mr Nadir, a workaholic, had no time to shop. Ayesha furnished her Eaton Square apartment with grand English furniture from Partridge in Bond Street and Mr Nadir asked the wife of one of his oldest Turkish friends, Arman Teklar, to do up his offices with 18th century French furniture.

All had to be in pristine condition. The scruffy look loved by British aristocrats was anathema to Mr Nadir. When the contents of Berkeley Square were auctioned at Phillips they raised £3.5 million. So many people turned up that the sale had to be conducted on three floors. The former Mrs Nadir settled into a front-row seat, smiling. When reporters asked her if

she was distressed, she replied: "Well it was only his office furniture."

The furniture in question included "Harem ladies Feeding Pigeons in a Palace Courtyard", by Gerome, two Turner watercolours and other obviously essential office equipment such as a £450 19th century umbrella stand, a £1,900 Regency oyster tray, a pair of globes for £30,000 and nine blotters worth £5,400.

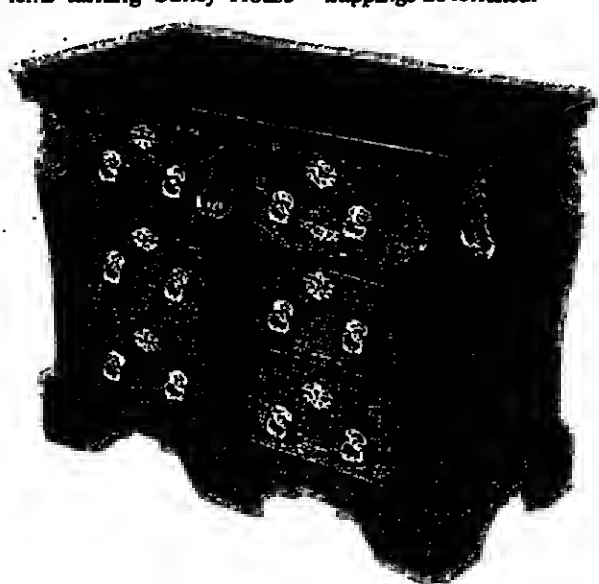
According to friends, he never cared for luxury. Rather his wealth was used as part of a tactical financial policy. One man who worked closely with him and lost money to him, says: "His lifestyle was frugal. He was very happy with a plate of olives and tomatoes for breakfast and lentil soup for lunch. It was only when he had to entertain for business that you would find him at Annabel's. His one extravagance was his art. He adored 16th and 17th century Islamic art."

When Mr Nadir had problems turning Burley House

into a lavish hotel and the deer park into a golf course he let the house decay and the gardens become a wilderness. The house had never appealed to him, whereas Joss Hainbury, who had sold him Burley, was devastated at its state.

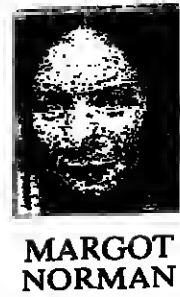
His former wife was probably right. After headlines such as "Asil reaches his nadir", colleagues asked him why he didn't change his name. "I know that in English the nadir is the lowest point," he would reply. "But in Turkish it means rare and Asil means noble. So I am delighted to have the name. My Turkish name is, after, all what counts."

And it is in North Cyprus where he is still referred to in awe-struck tones as the man who bought pride to the Turkish Cypriots rather than shame for alleged inside trading, share-support operations and fraud. It may be galling to his shareholders, but as he sits in his large house in northern Cyprus, or wanders in his lemon groves, one of the last things Mr Nadir will be thinking about are the trappings he forfeited.



Gone: Asil Nadir, above, is now believed to be in his villa and citrus groves in northern Cyprus, having left behind all the trappings of the English landed gentry. Gone: a George III chandelier, left, sold for £139,150. Gone: a George II commode, right, sold for £73,370

Why men get more firsts



MARGOT NORMAN

This morning I have been struggling with a conundrum, namely, what is the correlation between the number of hairs on a fruit fly's bottom and the number of first class degrees awarded to female undergraduates in Cambridge?

Relax, dear reader, and do not join the struggle for it is bootless: I can tell you before we begin that, although no less eminent a person than Dr Charles Goodhart, formerly senior tutor at Gonville and Caius College, maintains there is such a correlation, and although no less lowly a person than myself, a humble hack, contradicts him, in this case the hack is right.

Varsity, the Cambridge student newspaper, has this week demonstrated that women are only being awarded around half as many firsts as men in proportion to their numbers. The students had to compile their lists of Tripos results themselves, going back to 1982, because the university no longer breaks down the results by gender. The statistics therefore came as a shock to most of the university community, although some senior members, among them Dr Goodhart, had been aware of the discrepancy for some time.

Dr Goodhart, a zoologist, performed a useful service by reviewing the statistics and drawing attention to the phenomenon in *The Cambridge*

and former polys get firsts. But at Oxford, for the period 1984-8, the figures were 16.7 per cent and 9.1 per cent respectively. Go back to the period 1967-76, when the women were clustered in all female colleges, and you find a much narrower gap, 11.2 per cent to 9.7 per cent.

True, the women were few, very much the *crème de la crème* rather than 43 per cent of the university population as they are now, but how do you account for the fact that it was precisely when the men's colleges started admitting women that the men raised their game dramatically and the gap widened? Fiddlessticks to "genuinely biological effects", at any rate of the Goodhart kind.

The Cambridge results show some weird variations. In Social and Political studies, a nice new course with no entrenched masculinities and more female tutors, women got twice as many firsts as men in last year's finals, and three times as many in Part I. Yet in History, a venerable, male-dominated discipline, 16 per cent of men and not a single one of the 75 women got a first in Part I. And guess what, women's History finals results have improved a bit since they introduced "blind marking" of scripts, but tutors now tell girls to develop masculine handwriting!

Ruth Deech, principal of St Anne's College, is Oxford's only female head of a mixed college. That in itself speaks volumes.

Are male examiners guilty of marking us down?

At Oxford only about 15 per cent of dons and five per cent of professors (and therefore very few exam-setters and markers) are female. To become an academic these days you pretty much have to get a first, so it looks as though this pattern of female underachievement will only get worse unless something positive is done.

Mr Deech doesn't think the confrontational Oxbridge tutorial system is to blame but she does think her female students cope less well with exam stress. She finds them more emotionally vulnerable, more conscientious overall and less able ruthlessly to concentrate on the essentials for exam success. They also "blossom" more than the men, take up more hobbies and get out of the university more.

So let's tackle learning strategies, before the senior common room reverts to an all-male institution. Let's persuade Oxford or Cambridge to set up an experiment in which three subjects, say, in two years time will have all their final papers set and blind-marked by women (preferably with type-written scripts). Academics can be borrowed from London University, where there are more, and more senior, women if need be. Let them offer courses for women in exam techniques, and let them publicise that there is a push on to get more female firsts. I'll bet you anything that, while the fruit fly's bottom will grow no more hairs, the number of women getting firsts will rocket.

If you are finding me more than usually categorical today, it is because I have noted what Oxbridge people say they are looking for. As one (female) undergraduate phrased it to *Varsity*: "It's male examiners who write the papers and the exams are very much geared to a masculine discourse — a very aggressive, hard-hitting, punchy sort of style. Women skirt around the issues and they are not as confident, whereas men come in, cut down everyone else's theory and say, this is what I think. Quite so."

At present 10.3 per cent of men and 6.2 per cent of women in British universities

Governments steer away from sticking their oar in

A new book has prompted politicians on both sides of the Atlantic to look at 're-inventing' their bureaucracies

Judge a decade by its how-to manuals. The 1970s produced whole bookshelves of guides to hyper-achievement: like *Total Fitness* and *Maximum Performance*; ten years later, greed was good and every yuppie carried a copy of the business bestseller, *In Search of Excellence*.

But in the sober 1990s, the handbook to be seen with is definitely *Reinventing Government*, by David Osborne and Ted Gaebler. Bill Clinton swears by it. So does William Waldegrave. After a decade of free market policies, could it be that statecraft is back in style? For Mr Osborne, who visited London this week under the auspices of *The Times* and the European Policy Forum, the book is the product of a long intellectual struggle to reclaim the idea of government from the battering it took from Vietnam, Watergate and the politics of the New Right. "We wrote it because we felt that the public would never put their faith in government again unless it was reval-

ised," he says. Ted Kennedy's disastrous bid to become president was, Mr Osborne says, the death rattle of an old style of high-sounding Democrat politics that put him and other serious liberal journalists "on the lookout for fundamental ideas about reshaping policy and governance".

It also brought him into contact with Mr Gaebler, the city manager of Visalia, California, who had transformed the town's public services and introduced an extraordinary sense of civic enterprise. "He clearly believed in government," he was a Democrat. But he didn't believe in doing it the old way. He had a very entrepreneurial enthusiasm," Mr Osborne says.

The book, written after four years researching new trends in local government was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for eight weeks and was described by the *president-to-be* last year as a "blueprint" which "should be read by every official in America".

Rejecting the tired debate between liberal believers in big government and neo-conservatives committed to slashing the state at all costs, the book argues that old-fashioned bureaucracies are far too rigid for a high-tech information age in which people expect choice, flexibility and a custom-built lifestyle.

"Think about the characteristics of a traditional bureaucracy — large, top-down, centralised, monopolistic," Mr Osborne says. "Organisations like that are no longer effective. They don't get you top-quality service, well-trained students, well-trained workers, high quality of industry. They're steady, slow and routinised."

"Reinvented" government works in a different way. It concentrates on results not procedures. It thrives on competition, decentralisation and accountability. And it delegates decision-making to citizens rather than quangoes. It looks for economies by "melting off fat" rather than cutting off limbs. It "steers" but does



David Osborne: "Traditional bureaucracies are steady, slow and routinised"

not "row": a distinction that is already becoming a mantra for think-tanks and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic.

"The word 'govern' comes from the Greek word which means helmsman," Mr Osborne says. "Steering means

setting the direction for a society, making sure that communities are healthy, families are healthy, businesses are healthy. Rowing is actually performing those services."

So why not fire the army and the police and let the

MoD and Home Office put the work out to tender? Ah, well: that's different, Mr Osborne says. In areas "where there's an extreme sensitivity of some kind", such as tax collection, police work and defence, the government must

row as well as steer. The trick, presumably, is knowing exactly which areas they are.

In *Reinventing Government*, the British government has spotted the tidy vocabulary which has been missing from its own jargon-ridden efforts to transform the public sector under the banner of the Citizen's Charter. Mr Waldegrave sang the praises of the book in a *Times* essay last week. For his part, Mr Osborne is intrigued by the progress which has been made on this side of the Atlantic. He also has a few suggestions.

Schools which opt out of local authority control, he claims, will still need a level of local strategic management to ensure that parental choice is real: prison privatisation will only work if the terms of contracts are in the public domain and contractors fully accountable to parliament. And, of course, he is ready with an example. "The city that best does that, pioneered it, this is Phoenix. They have a system of publishing the bids for competition which means that you have a level playing field."

If there are runes to be read in *Reinventing Government*,

they map out a future in which the state will be less active but more dirigiste. It will regulate more and do less. Those that govern us will be "policy-workers" rather than bureaucrats, and the chancelleries of power will resemble think tanks more than offices of state.

It is a curious vision but one which the mild-mannered and articulate Mr Osborne makes rather convincingly. He is already working on a sequel and a computer network for the new breed of official to exchange information.

More importantly, he has been signed up by President Clinton as a policy adviser and will deliver a full report on the public sector later this year. Let the world go forth: the march of the reinventors has begun.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

●The American handbook of Reinventing Government by David Osborne and Ted Gaebler is available. In some British bookshops. A British response to Reinventing Government, published by the European Policy Forum, 20 Queen Anne's Gate.

Degenerative diseases across the generations and the return to fashion of old teachings

A way to take control

DEPRESSION, which is one of the most common complications of Parkinson's disease, may well have been a factor in the death this week of Sir Roy Watts. Parkinson's disease was named after Dr James Parkinson, a family doctor whose surgery was in Shoreditch. Fame came late to Dr Parkinson who was 62 when in 1817 he published his *Essay on the Shaking Palsy*. It is said that the attention of Dr Parkinson as he sat listening to his patients often strayed away from the story of their woes to the window so that he could indulge his great interest, a study of the gait and the posture of the passers-by in the street outside.

Dr Parkinson described a condition, which now bears his name, very accurately and was the first to stress that the shake was only a symptom of a more general disease and not the disease itself. As well as causing a tremor, Parkinson's disease, if unchecked, results in a progressive rigidity of movement which makes normal physical activities slow and cumbersome.



Symptoms: Muhammad Ali

some. It takes, for instance, untreated patients an age to do up their buttons, and writing becomes a laborious chore.

Parkinson's is a degenerative disease, and hence usually but not invariably affects the older group: one person in 100 over 65 has it.

A small part of the brain, the substantia nigra, secretes a chemical, dopamine, which is one of the neurotransmitters upon which the correct functioning of many of the

brain's activities depend. In Parkinson's disease there is a failure in the production of dopamine and the resulting chemical imbalance affects the patient's movements, posture and co-ordination. It is probable that symptoms of Parkinson's disease are only noticeable to patients, or their doctors, when about half the dopamine-secreting cells of the substantia nigra have been destroyed. The symptoms of Parkinson's (parkinsonism) can be induced by causes other than Parkinson's disease itself: it is therefore always important for patients to have expert neurological opinion so that damage to substantia nigra by small strokes, repeated injury as in boxers (Muhammad Ali has parkinsonism) or even tumours can be excluded.

One of the myths which Dr Parkinson tried to lay nearly 200 years ago was that Parkinson's disease followed a mis-spent youth or middle age. The tremor of Parkinson's disease is quite different, and much slower, than that caused by alcohol, tea, coffee, anxiety, shivering or even old age. Indeed one of the features of the disease is that it is less likely to affect smokers, but smoking once it is established does not halt its progress.

The drug treatment of Parkinson's disease has improved immensely in the past ten years. Neurologists can not eradicate the disease, surgery is in its infancy,



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttard

but by juggling with a group of drugs they can slow its course so that the changes in muscle tone, balance and co-ordination are so modified that active independent life is possible for a great many years. Every patient's disease is different and therefore each course of treatment is individual. Just as a good bespoke tailor will disguise his customer's less flattering physical features, so a good neurologist will keep a patient with Parkinson's disease in mainstream life.

While the neurologist deals with the major symptoms, the family doctor, and the family, have to help with a host of minor problems. One of the most distressing is the accompanying tiredness and depression. The tiredness felt by patients with Parkinson's disease can be devastating: unchecked it makes the muscular symptoms worse. Eight hours' sleep, and a nap after lunch can work wonders,

but regular exercise too should be maintained. Most patients with Parkinson's disease become depressed; it is not, as is often thought, only a reaction to the diagnosis, which might well be understandable, but part of the disease process itself. Very often it will not respond to encouragement in a modified lifestyle but needs specific treatment.

● The Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA (071-383 3513) provides comprehensive literature and is always prepared to offer advice.

Fruitful change

IF MY father, also a doctor, was alive he would be 118 this week. He regarded aluminium as a toxic metal and warned his patients against it. Like many of his teachings, some of his views are again in fashion. Old-school doctors were appalled when they noticed in a patient's kitchen that aluminium pots and pans had been scoured bright by cooking fruit in them. Rhubarb has an even more dramatic effect.

The magazine *General Practitioner* has recently reported on a

symposium on aluminium and its influence on Alzheimer's disease which was held at the Royal Society of Health. The consensus seemed to be that the case against aluminium was unproven, and that there was no evidence that reducing exposure to it would reduce the incidence of Alzheimer's. Having said that, the report then itemised six ways in which aluminium is known to be associated with the disease. Perhaps the two most telling points are that in areas where the natural aluminium levels in the water are high, there is a 50 per cent increase in the number of cases. And secondly in a clinical trial in which patients with Alzheimer's were given the drug desferrioxamine, which removes aluminium from the brain, deterioration was only half as quick as it was in those left untreated.

My father would rest happily if he knew that Professor Jim Edvardsson, Professor of neuro-endocrinology, at Newcastle, also had his doubts about aluminium saucers. While admitting that there are probably many causes of Alzheimer's, he suggested that doctors could well advise the relatives of patients with the disease to avoid cooking fruit in aluminium pans. It seems the citrate in fruit erodes the usually insoluble coating in the pan and makes the aluminium more readily absorbed.

Fight for a future

Rhys Daniels, the two-year-old from Epping who will develop Batten's disease unless he has expert treatment, may prove to be one of the first casualties of the destruction of London as a great medical centre.

Rhys needs a bone marrow transplant but, unfortunately, the Westminster Children's Hospital, which housed the world's foremost unit for dealing with cases such as his, has now been closed. For Rhys, there can be no delay for once symptoms have started, the damage is irreversible.

Batten's disease is similar to the better known Tay-Sachs disease. In these diseases, lipids (fats) accumulate abnormally in the cells of the nervous system and also sometimes elsewhere in the body.

Tay-Sachs disease strikes at about six months and essentially affects Jewish babies. A healthy child starts to regress and goes blind as it becomes progressively more demented, and weak, until it dies. Batten's disease, which affects all races, starts when the child is a toddler. Untreated, the illness is as distressing and the end as certain as in Tay-Sachs.

A cord linking life and life

Karia Dowling is two days old. But, within minutes of her birth, she became one of the first of 5,000 new-born babies in Britain to become a bone marrow "donor" in a unique project at Southmead Hospital, Bristol. Within the next two to three years, it is hoped, doctors will be able to provide "off the shelf" bone marrow transplants from a central cord blood bank to thousands of children and adults for whom such operations are the only hope of life.

The pioneering technique will allow bone marrow transplants to be carried out using the special bone marrow "seed" cells which are only present in the blood of newborn babies. Until now, the transplants have only been possible if a live donor volunteer, under anaesthetic, which involves sucking bone marrow out of the hip. Although harmless, it leaves the donor bruised and unable to work for a week.

But for a newborn baby to become a bone marrow "donor" is completely painless and non-invasive. The blood needed for the future transplant comes from the part of the umbilical cord that, at

Within hours of being born, babies could be healing others, writes Aileen Ballantyne

present, is simply discarded after the cord is clamped.

A bone marrow transplant is the only chance of cure for 1,500 people a year in Britain with leukaemia, but only a tiny percentage of those who could benefit actually get a transplant, because the tissue-typing match between donor and recipient has to be far more precise than for other forms of transplant.

A new laboratory, which will allow doctors in Britain, New York and Paris to set up the world's first central human cord blood bank, will be opened tomorrow at the Southmead Hospital.

The move has become possible due to the recent discovery that the "seed" cells needed to grow bone marrow are present — for just a few hours — in the blood of a baby that

has just left its mother's womb. During that time the special cells which create a new baby's bone marrow are "in migration" from the liver into the bones, and large numbers are contained in the blood in the umbilical cord.

Within the next few months, doctors at Southmead will start setting up the bank of frozen cord blood, together with parts of the 5,000 babies' umbilical cords which will be used to facilitate DNA matching with future recipients.

At present, only about 100 of the 500 bone marrow transplants performed in this country every year are from unrelated donors. The present system depends on a panel of 200,000 live unrelated donors who have volunteered to go through bone marrow donation if a recipient with their tissue type needs them. Many of the volunteers came forward last year following an appeal by Gary Lineker, the former England football captain. Mr Lineker, whose baby son, George, has acute myeloid leukaemia, made the appeal when he saw just how desperately ill other patients in his son's ward become when the intensive chemotherapy treatment used to eradicate the disease failed. Such patients



Helpless lifesaver: a baby's umbilical cord contains the "seed" blood cells used in fighting leukaemia

have to wait, often for six months and maintained on toxic drugs, until the long process of calling in and testing potential donors can be completed. For many the wait is too long, and they die on the waiting list.

Dr Gill Hows, consultant haematologist at Southmead, says that in theory an estimated

50 per cent of people in need of a bone marrow transplant could find a suitable unrelated donor. But in practice, due to the complexity of matching and locating donors, when they are needed, only about one in ten of that number actually get a transplant. "The great advantage of using frozen cord blood sam-

ples is that we will be able to offer a transplant within about a week," Dr Hows says.

Doctors also expect that the highly precise matching process — which makes up a significant part of the estimated £70,000 cost of unrelated bone marrow transplant operations — may be significantly reduced by the new method.

In addition, it may be possible to carry out operations between less precisely matched donors because, unlike an adult donor, a newborn baby's immune system has not yet developed, and there are less likely to be rejection problems. For the recipient, a bone marrow transplant is just like a blood transfusion. The stem

cells unfailingly find their way into the hollow centres of bones where they establish a healthy bone marrow. That marrow, the body's "factory", produces healthy blood cells.

So far, only a handful of bone marrow transplants using cord blood have been performed, using blood from the umbilical cord of a newborn brother or sister of the recipient. The world's first cord transplant patient, who received the cord blood four years ago, is now a healthy, normal eight-year-old.

Dr Hows launched the cord bank project in conjunction with Professor Ben Bradley, former director of the government's UK Transplant Service, which co-ordinates all transplants in this country. Professor Bradley now heads the department of transplant science at Bristol University.

But finance is a stumbling block. The cord bank project has taken far longer than expected to set up because the funding required has depended entirely on donations of £250,000 from the British Bone Marrow Donor Appeal and the Leukaemia Research Fund. No government funding was involved.

The cord bank could thus face the same financial restrictions as the present bone marrow transplant programme, highlighted this week by the Rhys Daniels case. In Britain, a chasm is growing between what is scientifically possible and what, in National Health Service terms, is practically achievable in terms of saving a human life.

A fortune has been squandered fighting a threat that never existed, says Dr James Le Fanu

The high cost of the Aids panic

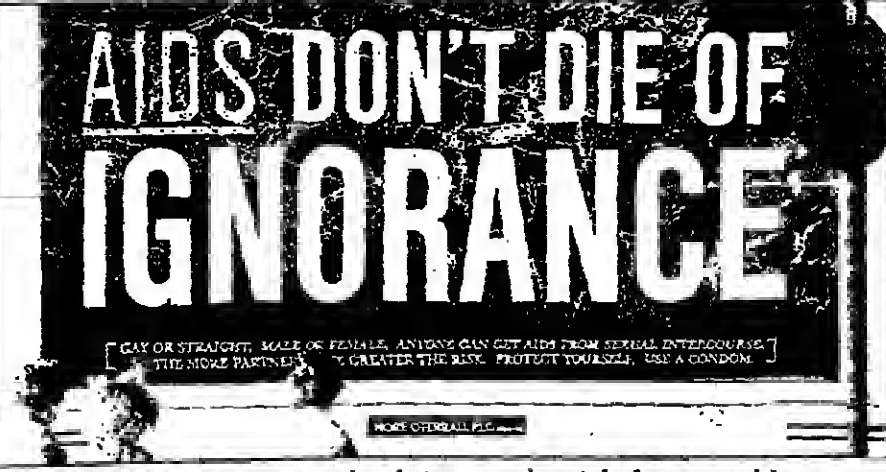
Announcing large cuts in funding for Aids health education projects this week, Virginia Bottomley claimed that the government's strategy had been highly effective. "From the word go, we took HIV and Aids very seriously. That is why we have a lower prevalence rate than other countries."

But far from being "highly effective", the Aids campaigns of the last few years have been a monstrous folly in which enormous funds — estimated at over £800 million — have been misdirected in an attempt to prevent a mythical beast, the heterosexual Aids Epidemic.

The first high-profile Aids campaign was launched in 1986 in an atmosphere of justifiable panic. Fearful of being accused of "doing too little too late", an inter-departmental ministerial cabinet committee was set up and £20 million allocated to the first education campaigns and the distribution of a leaflet warning about the disease to every household. The theme, with its slogan "Don't Die of Ignorance", was the potential heterosexual spread of Aids.

There had been no reported cases of Aids in Britain acquired by casual heterosexual intercourse at this time. But, rather than adjusting the campaign to concentrate on groups recognised to be at high risk like homosexuals and drug users, for the next six years the overriding emphasis was on the dangers of being infected by the HIV virus through vaginal intercourse.

Here, powerful lobbies played a crucial role. Homosexuals were naturally keen to discourage the belief that Aids was a "gay plague" by



Health education was targeted on heterosexuals not the known at-risk groups

promoting the notion that everyone was at risk. In a revealing episode from 1987 the Health Education Authority (HEA) endorsed an advertising campaign featuring matchstick men engaging in unusual practices with a tick for the safe ones and a cross for the risky. But when this campaign reached the stage of "concept testing" it was rejected as insulting by representatives of the homosexual community. Left with a large advertising budget to spend, the HEA decided to concentrate on the casual sex angle. But this time no target group was given the opportunity to veto the scheme. So every night for three months television viewers were invited into bed by an alluringly dressed actress.

Much more significant was the role of the Aids "industry" — the doctors, researchers,

activists, counsellors and many others who realised early on that if the funds for research, treatment and their salaries were to keep rolling in, the threat of an imminent heterosexual Aids epidemic had to be kept alive in the public mind.

The Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, whose job it was to monitor the spread of the epidemic, seemed at times committed to spreading alarm in the misleading way it presented its statistics. Particularly in the early years it failed to highlight the very small numbers of Aids cases acquired heterosexually.

The apotheosis of this endeavour was in 1991 when it was revealed that the numbers of women attending ante-natal clinics in London testing positive for the HIV virus had leapt fourfold in

four years. Sir Donald Acheson, chief medical officer, talked of "an alarming increase with deeply disturbing implications for everybody".

A re-examination of the following year of the details of those who had tested positive found that this rise was almost entirely accounted for by women of African origin who had recently arrived.

In the meantime the staggering costs of the Aids campaign were beginning to be appreciated. Susan Gupta, a London-based sociologist, calculated that "if every counselling service, help line, information network, HIV unit etc is taken into account there is around one Aids support organisation for every three Aids sufferers in Britain."

Defenders of this profliga-

ry, who no doubt include Mrs Bottomley, justify it on two grounds: it was impossible to project how the Aids epidemic would develop and anyhow the campaigns have helped contain it. Neither contention stands up to scrutiny.

There were prima facie reasons for arguing that Aids would be confined to the recognised at risk groups. Biologically HIV virus closely resembles the Hepatitis B virus, which has been around for the best part of 100 years, is transmitted in the same manner, and yet remains almost exclusively a disease of homosexuals and drug abusers.

Nor can the Aids campaign be credited with containing the epidemic. Rectal gonorrhoea is a marker for unsafe sexual practices and its incidence has been monitored between 1982 and 1990 separately in Leeds and Leicester. The big decline occurs before the Aids campaign was launched in 1986 and, indeed, from 1988 onwards it started climbing again. Nor do young heterosexuals seem to have been influenced: 59 per cent in a survey last year said they did not feel it necessary to wear a condom.

The Aids campaigns of the last few years have generated unnecessary panic and anxiety. They have diverted scarce resources away from the serious problems of treating disease — only a fraction of the sum spent would have been necessary to keep open the bone marrow transplant unit at Westminster's children's hospital. And they have degraded sexuality. Children as young as nine are being taught about sexual awareness and 13-year-olds the practicalities of anal intercourse.

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Regional air links fight for a place alongside jumbos

Businessmen and airlines based in many of Britain's regions are fighting to prevent the loss of vital air links to Heathrow. Within the past three years, air services to the airport from Norwich, Liverpool, Humberside, Dundee and Carlisle have been axed, others are threatened and attempts to open new services are being frustrated.

Airlines say that the high cost of landing and other airport charges makes it uneconomic for them to run regular short-haul domestic services, that it is impossible to open new routes because of congestion and that Heathrow has a long-term strategy aimed at squeezing out small business aircraft.

"I don't blame BAA for its policy of wanting big jets because, as a private company with a responsibility to its shareholders, it makes economic sense to attract a jumbo loaded with 300 tourists who then spend huge amounts in the airport shops rather than businessmen who simply want to change planes," says Mike Bathgate, commercial director of Manx Airlines.

The airlines had hoped the Civil Aviation Authority would force the airports to create slots especially for smaller regional services as a social policy. Last month, however, the CAA ruled that it had no such powers and that it was a matter for government, not aviation regulators.

"Economic forces taken together are likely to lead to the exclusion from the most congested airports of some regional routes and services unless there is positive regulatory intervention, other than operating on airport charges, to stop this happening," says the CAA.

"While the displacement or loss of services has wider social and economic implications, these are not for the Authority to assess but for the government, and the Authority can detect no reasons of aviation policy why it should try to intervene to stop airlines and airports putting scarce resources to their most productive use."

This has, however, infuriated many commercial organisations in the regions who claim they need air links in order to remain competitive, and to attract new investment.

David Howes, assistant chief executive of Plymouth City Council, said the severing of the air link between Plymouth and Heathrow — now under potential threat — would be devastating. International

Harvey Elliott on the problems for smaller airlines in keeping local air routes to Heathrow open

al firms, such as Toshiba, Wrigley, Gleasons, Murata and the Barden Corporation had located in Devon and Cornwall largely because of the air link.

"The international companies have been consistently saying to us, 'you must do what you can to protect these links'. The air route is an important factor in them coming here, staying here and investing in the area," he says.

Margaret Cammish, deputy director of Norfolk and Waveney Chamber of Commerce and Industry, whose air links with Heathrow were cut two years ago, says the loss

ing in an international environment. As a BT and ICL supplier, 90 per cent of its business is done with the US or Canada. It is concerned it may lose the European distributorship work because it is no longer accessible to Heathrow.

Manx Airlines says it faces similar problems in expanding regional business services throughout Europe. With much German investment in South Wales there is, it says, a big demand for direct flights to and from Dusseldorf but that airport too, has banned new small regional services.

At the same time the lack of air services from Heathrow to Cardiff means that Japanese businessmen wanting to visit one of their factories in South Wales would automatically be routed from Tokyo to Paris and on to Cardiff.

"Ticket prices on those services which are now available from the regions are often disproportionately high because of the charges levied on smaller aircraft."

"The Heathrow landing fee alone represents 10 per cent of the ticket price on one of our aircraft

while it accounts for just 0.3 per cent of the cost of a ticket on a jumbo," Mr Bathgate says. "When air traffic control charges and other costs are added, the overall impact on the cost of a ticket is more than 20 per cent. We are being squeezed out and for people from the Isle of Man, Cardiff and other regions this represents a very severe problem."

"We don't know precisely what the answer is but we are determined, with other airlines and the business community, to press the government in Britain and the European community as a whole to start looking at this problem."

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, denies that it is discriminating against smaller aircraft. "Airport charges are significantly lower for regional carriers," it says. "A Shorts 360, for example, would pay £629 in the peak periods at Heathrow, while a Boeing 747 would pay £6,396."

The airlines dispute this, however, saying that during the peak landing fee remains the same for both types but that a charge of £13.87 is then levied on all international passengers, compared with £7.60 per domestic passenger. This in turn makes it more attractive to BAA to encourage jumbos to use the airport rather than smaller aircraft.



Big plans: a BAe Jetstream 41 in Manx livery

of the link had serious repercussions for companies because they were perceived to be so isolated.

John Westlake, the general drilling superintendent for the Santa Fe Drilling Co., based in Great Yarmouth, said since the Norwich air link was closed two years ago, the vice-president responsible for investment had not visited the town although he had previously been there every three months.

According to Mr Westlake, the loss of the route had meant all the major oil companies had moved out of the area, a number of them relocating in the Thames Valley region to be close to international links.

In addition, there have been fatal road accidents involving tired members of staff driving back to Norwich after transatlantic flights.

Norwich-based Anglia Technologies is a regional business operat-



When giants meet: the confrontation between the New Zealand All Blacks and the British Lions should bring in the tourists

Lions may bring roaring trade

New Zealand is hoping that rugby will help to raise the country's tourism profile

The first British Lions rugby tour to New Zealand for ten years is expected to provide a massive boost for the country's travel and tourism industry. The tour, which begins this month and ends in July, is being seen by the New Zealand tourism board as a glittering opportunity to market its country.

About 1,000 holidaymakers are expected to watch the first international on June 12 when the All Blacks, trying to regain their position as the most powerful team in the world, will meet the Lions. New Zealand are still smarting from their failure to reach the final of the 1991 World Cup at Twickenham. Several British tour operators are offering package trips for rugby supporters who want to see the international series and provincial

matches. Gullivers Sports Travel, a specialist in sporting holidays, is laying on five tours. Other tour operators, including Kooni, have been quick to see the potential for sales. New Zealand's tourism chiefs expect to pick up lucrative holiday trade on the back of these trips.

A spokesman for the New Zealand tourist board said sports holidays were part of a growing trend. "A number of tour operators are offering packages for teams to go to New Zealand to play rugby on an amateur basis."

Prices for the various tour packages range from £1,599 to £2,712, depending on the standard of

accommodation and the length of the holiday.

The tourist board is hoping that people who pay that much money for a rugby tour will take their families with them for a holiday. "When people go 13,000 miles for rugby they will want to see some of New Zealand as well," the spokesman said, "so we expect them to travel around and take in the sights."

John Hall, managing director of Gullivers Sports Travel, said interest in the holidays was growing.

The firm has booked 450 people for the New Zealand tour and handled 16,000 visitors to the UK

and Europe for the Rugby World Cup. "The rest of the travel industry has gone down but we have seen interest go up, particularly since the Rugby World Cup. It's quite phenomenal, considering we have been in a recession. These holidays cost £2,000 each."

The company presently has about 40 people in the West Indies for the Pakistan cricket tour. "That tour doesn't even involve the England team," Mr Hall says. "But it has a lot more to offer than just lying on the beach at Benidorm." A third of the people booked to go on the New Zealand tour are women.

Large numbers of people are expected to book for the 1995 Rugby World Cup, to be held in South Africa.

PETER VICTOR

Sunny bargain

CARIBBEAN "bargains" are relatively rare, but Caribbours (071-581 3517) is offering two-week holidays to the Pemberton hotels in St Thomas and Barbados which include free flights between the two islands and free half-board accommodation for the second week.

One week at the new Grand Palazzo at Great Bay, St Thomas, which opened last autumn, and one week at either Glitter Bay or the Royal Pavilion in Barbados, costs from £1,929 a person, a saving of up to £400.

Quick check-in

HIGH-FLYERS taking Concorde out of Heathrow can now check in by telephone and go straight from their car to the new Concorde departure lounge in Terminal 4.

The executive is whisked through BA's special Fasttrack passport and security control (available for First and Club World passengers, too). Only hand-luggage can be taken under this scheme.

Charter class

PACKAGE holidaymakers are to be offered a two-class service on selected Excalibur Airways charter flights this summer. Most other charter airlines have refused to introduce similar schemes because, they claim, the cost is prohibitive and the demand very small.

The service features a separate check-in desk, prior seat booking, 30kg baggage allowance and the use of the Sir Ivor Brook VIP lounge in the south terminal satellite at Gatwick.

Making its mark

THE logo of Abta, the Association of British Travel Agents, is recognised by 91 per cent of people as an organisation giving customer protection in the event of a holiday company failing. The figure matches the recognition of the BBC and is bettered only by the RSPCA.

Cruise into the past

The last of the old-style banana boats will sail to the Caribbean later this year



Islands idyll: Geest offer a last chance of old-style travel

Banana boat journeys to the Caribbean could soon become no more than a memory of an elegant past if one of the fruit's biggest importers gets rid of its last two passenger-carrying cargo ships, Harvey Elliott writes.

The Geest Line — the last company still to be operating banana boat passenger services — has already sold two of its four freighters, and the company's terminal at Barry, South Wales, has been closed, with the loss of 74 jobs. Operations are now centred on the container port at Southampton, from where bananas are transhipped to Europe.

Since Geest admits that it is studying the replacement of the last two cargo ships by larger container vessels that do not cater for passengers. No time limit has been placed on the survival of the remaining two ships but it is unlikely that the leisurely journeys to the Windward Islands will be available beyond the end of this year.

Capable of carrying 12 passen-

gers, the banana boats take the "old fashioned" route to the West Indies, taking three weeks to make the round trip to Antigua, St Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, St Vincent, St Kitts and Dominica, taking on board freshly-picked bananas and other local produce in each port.

Unlike the banana boats which brought in tens of thousands of immigrants in the 1950s, the Geest ships are modern, air-conditioned and fast, carrying general cargo as well as exotic fruits. On-board entertainment centres on bridge tables and deck quitoes rather than the cinemas and noisy discos which dominate today's cruise ships.

Dinner is black tie, and the cuisine is of a high standard. Each cabin has its own en suite bath-

room, all public rooms have adjustable air conditioning, and there is a small pool on the deck for the passengers' use.

Sailings from Southampton are fortnightly and the voyage to the Caribbean takes eight days, with a full day at each of the islands. Normally, the 12 cabins on the Geestbay and the Geestport are booked months, if not years, in advance, but the uncertainty over the future of the service has left some cabin space available for much of the rest of this year.

Prices for the last passenger journeys to the Windward Islands range from £1,798 for a single journey to Antigua to £3,060 for the full round-trip. Bookings can be made through the Geest office in Southampton (0703 333388).

Shots fired over Channel

In the opening battle for more than 14 million cross-Channel passengers, the first shots have been fired as the ferry companies square up to Le Shuttle — the Channel tunnel operators.

The two forms of transport each tried to persuade 2,000 travel agents and tour operators at the Abta convention in Palma last week that their method of getting to the Continent would be the better once the tunnel opens for business next year.

Cross-Channel ferry operators are increasing capacity and cutting prices as they jockey for position. P & O, the biggest ferry company, this week introduced a fifth ship on the Dover to Calais service providing customers with a sailing every 45 minutes throughout the day.

With Stena-Sealink offering 20 trips each day the two companies have a total capacity on the route of almost 100,000 passengers a day. At the same time, fares are being slashed with some special offers being made available for as low as £1 per person.

The competition between the ferries is now so intense that some fear they may be forced out of business by the combination of low fares and too much capacity.

All ferry operators, however, are gearing themselves to meet the competition with Le Shuttle. The train service, which expects to capture half the cross-Channel market, will take cars through the tunnel in 35 minutes. Although no



On the move: journeys through the tunnel will start next year

price has been set, it is expected to be £150 for the return trip — about the average fare now being charged for a ferry journey for a car and up to five passengers.

There are now a vast range of prices available for ferry crossings depending on the day and time of travel. At the peak, a full fare can be more than £300 return while at off-peak times it falls to below £70.

Ferries are, however, sailing well under half full for much of the time, and only P & O is making healthy profits. Additional profits are being made from the restaurants and duty-free shops on board.

"Passengers will be encouraged to sit in their cars when in the

tunnel and will be unable to get out to have a relaxing meal," Graeme Dunlop, managing director of P & O European Ferries, says.

"From motorway to motorway it will take them 80 minutes, while with ferries they can do the same journey in 100 minutes. This will allow them to make the essential stop to rest and eat on the way from, say, London to Paris."

Now that the recession is ending, ferry operators hope that any loss of passengers to the Channel tunnel will be more than compensated for by an increase in lorry and freight traffic.

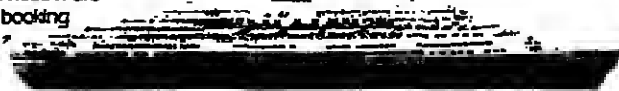
HARVEY ELLIOTT

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Hungarian rhapsody now a dirge

Hungary's tourism officials are hoping that the Queen's visit this week will focus much-needed attention on their country.

After the collapse of communism in 1990, Hungary became one of the focal points for Western tourists eager to experience life in the nations of eastern Europe which had effectively been denied them for so long. Three years on, the mystery and excitement of the former Iron Curtain country have faded. Budapest, the capital, has also acquired a reputation for poor accommodation and tourist information, cowboy taxi drivers and the overtness of prostitutes around the city's deluxe hotels.

Hungary also suffers from what travel agents call the Bosnia Effect: its proximity, as shown on maps on television and in the papers, to the civil war going on just to the south of its borders.

Yet Hungary — and Budapest in particular — remains one of the most interesting countries for tourists to visit. "Of course there are problems, as there would be with any country where change has happened so rapidly," says Peter Dyer, managing director of the short-break specialists Crystal Holidays. "But we get a lot of comments about what a beautiful surprise Budapest is, with its historic buildings and old world charm."

Travellers, another short-break specialist, also carried out a survey of clients recently. Budapest was given high ratings for its atmosphere and friendliness, but was judged to have poor shops and nightlife.

The main short-break operators with programmes to Hungary suggest demand for travel this year is "slightly down", while Crystal reports a 9 per cent increase — although this is below its 11 per cent increase in short-break holidays overall this year.

BA Holidays, moreover, suggests that Budapest has

David Churchill asks whether the Queen's visit will help to revive Hungary's ailing tourist trade

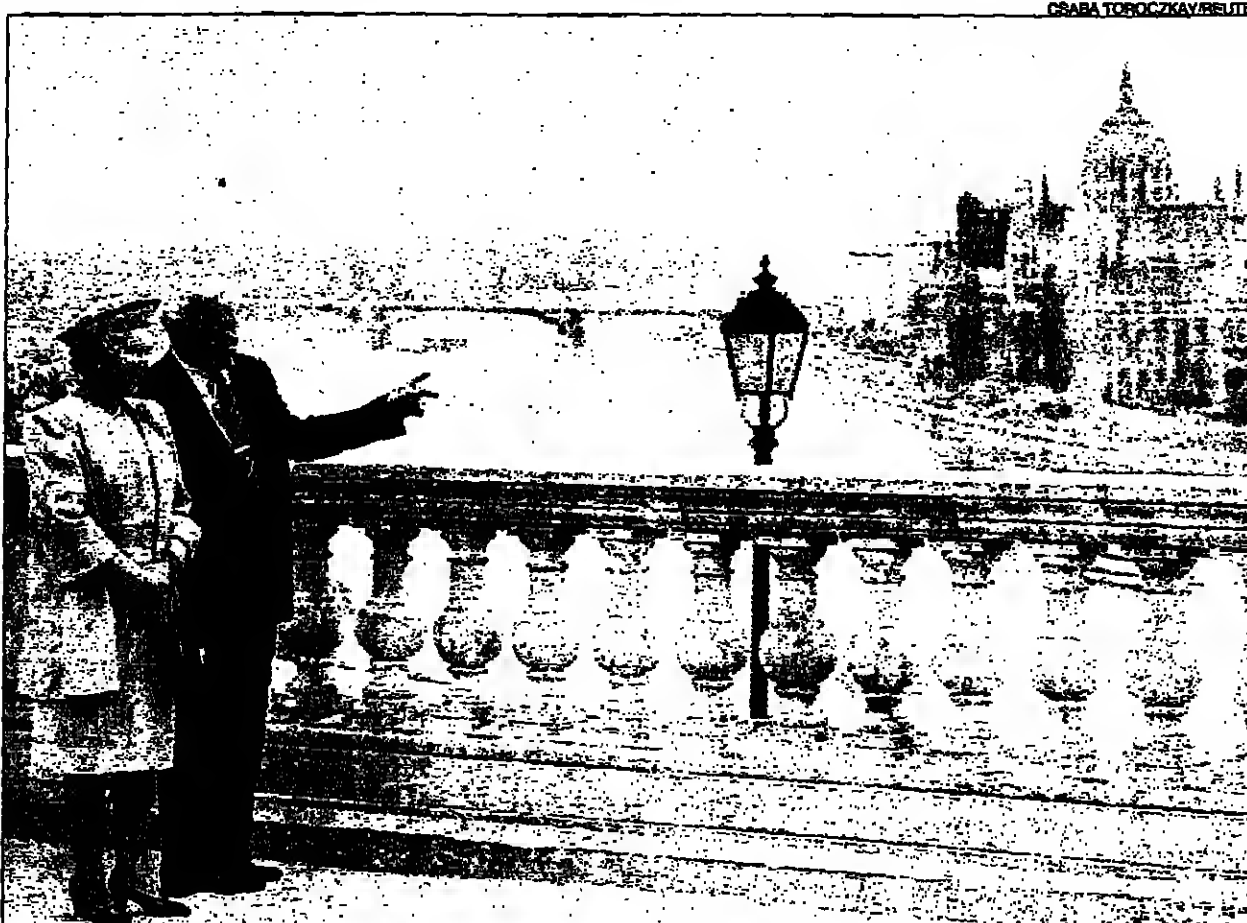
suffered from "some very competitive pricing for other short-break city destinations this spring". With inflation rampant, Hungary is no longer the cheap — "good value" in travel agents' terms — destination it was for westerners in 1990. Frequent visitors report that prices have risen sharply in hotels, shops and restaurants, although not by as much as in some other former eastern bloc countries.

Some good short-break deals to Budapest, however, are still being offered by UK operators. Sovereign, for example, has just cut the price of a four-night trip to Budapest by £157 per person, to £310.

But Budapest also suffers in comparison with such neighbouring capitals as Vienna and Prague which are often teamed with Budapest by operators in a three-centre programme. Alison Booth, the managing editor of a travel magazine, recently completed one of these holidays (for pleasure, not work). "Vienna and Prague were fun," she says, "good value and very welcoming cities for the tourist. Budapest was not."

The Hungarians are not unaware of the problems they face. "The unfavourable outer conditions of the region are well-known, and there are great difficulties which follow the political, social and economic changes," says the Hungarian Tourist Board in Budapest.

Although the tourist board remains state-owned, privatisation of the rest of the tourist industry has grown rapidly. More than 600 private travel agencies have replaced the few large state-run agencies and 82 per cent of the 750,000 tourist rooms (of all types, although there are just 60,000 hotel beds available) are privately owned. The number of



Royalty takes an interest: Arpad Goncz, the president of Hungary, with the Queen in Budapest this week

private guest houses and camping sites has doubled over the past two years.

Western hotel chains have also moved into Budapest, with all new hotels partly foreign-owned. The four-star, 300-room Hotel Aquinum on the Buda side of the Danube is partly Swiss-owned, while the 400-room luxury Hotel Kempinski — said to be the city's most expensive — on the Pest side is German-financed.

Marriott, the American chain, has just acquired the former Duna Inter-Continental Hotel, while Accor, the

French group, is negotiating to buy a controlling stake in the largest Hungarian hotel chain, the Pannónia.

The tourist board's strategy to foster new Western interest is to develop several themes around which they and operators can promote visitor interest. Such themes include health and fitness holidays (Budapest is famous for its thermal waters), Hungarian folklore and culture and, of course, Hungarian food.

Moreover, Thomas Cook, the travel agent, points out that there is considerable potential for westerners to

enjoy Mediterranean-type conditions at Lake Balaton, the largest lake in central and western Europe, and a popular destination for Hungarians. The mild summer climate creates ideal conditions for water sports. The area also attracts hikers.

Business travellers are also a key target for Hungary and, to a certain extent, it has been more successful in maintaining its conference and incentive travel business. The Hyatt hotel in Budapest, for example, claims that conference and incentive groups get better-value deals than in other

eastern European cities. But some of Budapest's conference facilities, such as the Hungexpo Centre and the Sports Hall — which can hold up to 12,500 delegates — need to be upgraded if they are to remain competitive.

Hungary's trump card in rejuvenating its national image will be played in three years, when it stages the 1996 World Expo. After the success of the Seville Expo last year, it can expect to attract more than 12 million visitors.

● The Hungarian Tourist Board is represented in the UK by Danube Travel (071-493 0263)

Taking on high flyers

Britain's airlines are making the most of the 'open skies' policy

Britain's charter airlines are snapping up lucrative contracts to ferry European car and pharmaceutical executives to marketing conferences.

A fresh avenue has opened up after the signing of the European "open skies" agreement which allows airlines to compete on equal terms for business anywhere within Europe. Since January 1, British airlines have been undercutting competitors based on the Continent.

Dozens of companies regularly fly sales executives, senior staff and journalists to attend conferences and company parties. Traditionally, an airline from the country where the company is based has provided the flights, but the new regulations now allow any properly licensed European airline to fly where it wants within the community.

Charter airlines always have spare capacity throughout the winter and spring when fewer than 40 per cent of their fleet is engaged on carrying package tourists.

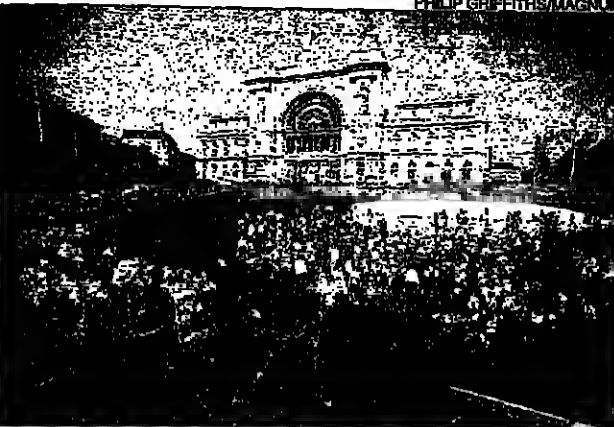
Although many aircraft are left standing at base, pilots are still paid a full salary even though the number of flying hours is drastically reduced. Airlines have tried over the years to overcome the problem by leasing aircraft to holiday companies in the southern hemisphere or by scheduling as many planes as they can to go into full maintenance checks.

British charter airlines are far more efficient and financially tightly controlled than their continental competitors but have, until now, been prevented from seeking business in other European countries because of the outdated aviation laws. Now Britannia — the biggest charter airline in Britain — has moved a full sales team into France and Germany to bid for individual charter contracts advertised by airline brokers.

Already major car and chemical companies have contracted regular flights and, so far, Britannia has carried more than 13,000 European charter passengers and executives.

Although individual charter operations may be much cheaper under the British flag, it is still doubtful whether the airlines will move into the European charter package holiday market in large numbers in the near future because of the high cost of setting up a permanent base.

HARVEY ELLIOTT



Picture-postcard prettiness: Budapest's railway station

The rocky pleasure show

Gibraltar will this week try to bury centuries of antagonism with its Spanish neighbours by launching the Rock's first marketing drive in Spain to woo tourists to Britain's Mediterranean outpost. Television and radio stations will be inundated with commercials promoting Gibraltar, which was all but closed to Spaniards until the border reopened in 1985.

Albert Poggio, the director of Gibraltar's National Tourist Board, says it is time to cast aside political difficulties with Spain. "We have four million visitors a year and many of them come from Spain already," he says, "but we want to convince them to look beyond the duty-free shops and stay for a weekend."

At the moment, Spaniards are attracted by Gibraltar's cheap petrol and alcohol but few are tempted to stay overnight. Mr Poggio rejects the image of Gibraltar as "Aldershot by Med" where squaddies while away sunny days in English pubs and chippies. "Gibraltar is much more than a military base and has an interesting heritage for visitors to see," he says. "We have just completed the second phase of a refurbishment programme on the Rock and have reopened the Moorish Castle (which dates back to the 8th century) and the Upper Galleries, an extensive section of the British tunnels. Gibraltar is also an excellent base to explore Morocco and, indeed, southern Spain."

Mr Poggio has just returned from promoting Gibraltar in Seville and Granada where he was encouraged by the Spanish response. But he was made all too aware of the threat posed by Gibraltar's fragile relations with Spain. The right-wing Popular Party, which is doing well in polls ahead of next month's general election in Spain, has made belligerent noises about enforcing stricter controls on the

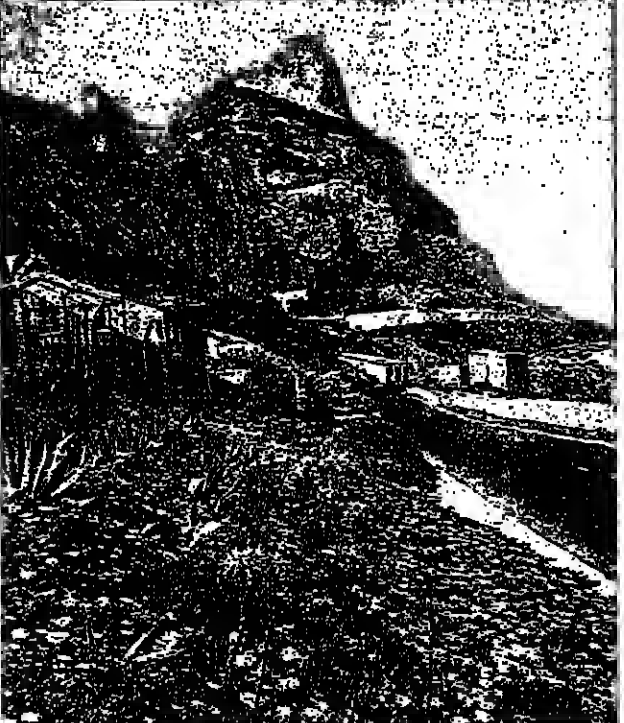
Gibraltar, for years cut off from the mainland, is now trying to woo Spaniards to extend their day trips

frontier and its leaders have warned Gibraltar to crack down on its lucrative smuggling trade. Spanish police, armed with walkie-talkies and binoculars, line the coast down to the border to try to catch Gibraltar's "Winston Boys" who smuggle Winston cigarettes and drugs into Spain.

Mr Poggio dismisses the new aggressive tone as "protection bluffing", but he adds: "I am disgusted and worried that this problem should still exist in 1993. It is surprising

that political leaders in Spain should be saying these things, particularly when you consider the phenomenal economic progress it has made in the last 15 years. But I don't think Spain will let Gibraltar tarnish its reputation."

Cadogan Travel (0703 332661) is one of the first companies to pick up Mr Poggio's theme to promote Gibraltar as a springboard to Spain and North Africa. This week Cadogan launches its summer brochure, *Gibraltar & Beyond*, which advertises up-market, tailor-made holidays to old hotels, restored monasteries and manor houses. Destinations include Ronda, the 18th century city in Serrania which has Spain's oldest bull ring; Jerez de la Frontera, home of sherry; and Tangiers, the old international enclave in Morocco, and the celebrated haunt of presidents and potentates at play.



Rock of ages: shedding an "Aldershot on the Med" image

Tourism in Gibraltar is also being boosted by the end of the Cold War. Mr Poggio says that although the Ministry of Defence (MoD) still sees Gibraltar as an essential military base, it is releasing land and old buildings that he is keen to develop.

"Housing has always been a problem in Gibraltar and as the MoD releases its hold on land we are aiming to buy up some excellent accommodation," he says. "This also shows how important tourism is to Gibraltar because we can no longer rely on the MoD as a steady source of income. Ten years ago 75 per cent of our gross domestic product was related to MoD spending. That has now gone down to 14 per cent and is declining."

NICHOLAS WATT

Tivoli fairytale that came true

Copenhagen's elegant Tivoli Gardens, Denmark's prime tourist attraction, which was visited by more than four million guests last summer, has opened its 150th anniversary season in a welter of festivities, Christopher Follett writes.

Tivoli is the last surviving example of 19th century pleasure gardens, which flourished in Europe long before anyone dreamt of Disneyland. Georg Carstensen, the Algers-born Dane who founded Tivoli in 1843 along the old city ramparts, got the idea from the Vauxhall Gardens in London. Tivoli was originally a summer resort near Rome at which Hadrian's villa stood. "Tivoli is the grandmother

of all amusement parks," Orson Nielsen, the Tivoli press spokesman, says. "Walt Disney got the idea for his Disneyland parks during a visit to Tivoli in the 1950s."

Tivoli is the world's eighth most visited pleasure garden. Forty per cent of its visitors come from overseas. An entrance fee of £3.50 entitles visitors to drink in the atmosphere of bandstands, unfurling entertainments, 28 restaurants and a concert hall housing one of Europe's best summer music festivals.

For the jubilee season, 144 concerts by musicians from all over the world are scheduled, the summer's highlights being visits by the New York City Ballet and Danish-American comedian Victor Borge.

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Lyon rids itself of jams

Drivers can now by-pass the notorious Fourvière tunnel

The worst bottleneck on France's motorway network has been eliminated with the opening of a by-pass skirting Lyon, the country's second city.

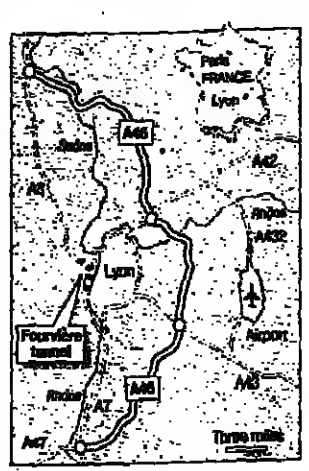
Until now, drivers heading for the south have been forced to negotiate the notorious Fourvière tunnel in the heart of Lyon through which the A6 autoroute passes and becomes the A7.

The tunnel has wrecked many a holiday schedule, funneling traffic into two lanes in each direction from the three or four lanes on which it had previously been driving. The result is often catastrophic in summer when 90,000 vehicles a day try to squeeze through the tunnel.

Now motorists can avoid Lyon entirely by leaving the A6 north of the city and skirting around its eastern edge using the A46 which rejoins the A7 well to the south.

The road must, however, qualify as one of the most expensive motorways in the world in terms of what it cost to build — some £8 million a mile or £126.25 an inch, for 40 miles. Five viaducts spanning the rivers Saône and Rhône were largely responsible for making the costs two-thirds higher than the average for this type of road.

Surprisingly, it is toll-free, although tariffs at the existing péages on the A6 and A7 have been increased in



order to cover its construction costs.

Many a driver will no doubt consider this a small price to pay to avoid the Fourvière trap in the coming holiday months.

TONY ROCCA

Philip Howard



It's a wild life for wildlife at home in the big city streets

Opposed to the modern lemming impulse to the country, some townies prefer to stay in town to escape the crudity of country living: those prairies of bilious rape and chemically-green wheat, the grunting and clucking from the factory prisons, the petty monotony of dawn chorus and ex-suburbanite gossip about lawn-mowers and the children's schools, the screams of small animals being killed and of larger animals swanking interminably about their gardens. Until recently, the city was recognised as the centre of civility. But though you try to turn the country out of town with a council skip and fork-lift truck, it will always come back at you.

Foxes are now making their earths not just in the suburbs, but at the centre. The residents feed their vulpine visitors in a communal garden at Notting Hill Gate, making them so tame that they are then knocked down by traffic. It makes a change from being hunted or trapped by countrymen. The rat-like squirrels peccate everywhere, sharp city slickers in grey suits, even feeding on dried flowers in the sitting-room. The junior Jack Russell recently alarmed Japanese tourists by hunting a rabbit in Kensington Gardens. The dawn chorus begins at midnight because streetlamps fool the birds; and starlings are imitating police sirens, whistling to persuade predators that they are bigger and more official than they look.

Now a blackbird has nested in the most unpromising urban site in town, just beside the door, a few yards from the roaring traffic. It has been pretty well camouflaged by clematis and Russian vine from the passing trade of cats, small boys, terrorists and other threats. But the mother's beady eye peers nervously through the foliage. The father does as much of his share of household chores as can be expected of modern males, but spends most of his time singing from an adjacent tree in a West London accent, much like a QPR supporter.

Research has shown that birds, like humans, have regional accents. Look you, boy. Robins from Sussex attack tape-recordings of the alien song of Welsh robins, in order to defend their territory from strangers. But they tolerate the song of their Sussex neighbours. This research is not as recent as the scientists suppose. Hardy wrote a poem 90 years ago based on the conceit that Wessex blackbirds sang a different song from the blackbirds of Scotland or Ireland. This now seems to be scientifically correct, and it is not surprising. Human dialects and varieties of flower change regionally, along the lines of natural boundaries such as rivers and mountain ranges, or cities and suburbs. Among the chirruping classes, regional dialect relates to habitat. Blackbirds from the wild woods have deeper voices than urban birds, which live in whatever absurd space they can find. City birds have more complicated, squeaky voices, presumably from the difficulty of making themselves heard above the traffic. This Notting Hill blackbird sounds alarmingly like a wild bird from down the road chanting *Kew-Fee R-Urr*.

His ancestor was the bird whom Bottom sang about: "The ouzel cock so black of hue/ With orange tawny bill..." Bottom's bird, though, coming supposedly from a wood near Athens, would have trilled with a Greek "r" and Mediterranean nasals that would have frightened the local birds, apart from the Cypriotes.

Townies are, of course, delighted to find a bit of nature at their door, provided the door is where it stays. We may not be quite as bird-loving as Saint Kevin, the 7th-century Irishman who, like so many of his compatriots, had strong feelings about wildlife. He was praying in the temple of the rock at Glendalough, with one hand stretched upwards, when a blackbird flew down and laid her eggs in his palm. The compassionate saint stayed posed with his arm outstretched until the eggs were hatched, and the brood flown.

That is going too far in this hustling age, but I will do my best to see the four newly hatched fledglings fly, with their unmistakable West London nasal accents, without being scooped by passing cats or that handsome but omnivorous cannibal, Mr Magpie. And I shall then have to take a holiday to recover from the drama red in tooth and bill of city living.

Nadir's rural zenith

FEW tears were shed in Leicestershire yesterday over Asil Nadir's sudden flight to Cyprus. It was in the Quorn country, after all, that the bankrupt businessman tried so hard to inveigle his way into the squireship.

His rural legacy is plain for all to see in Baggrave Hall, a property on which he lavished millions of pounds. He spent hundreds of thousands on pedigree Charolais and Aberdeen Angus cattle, which he housed in palatial sheds of unrivalled splendour.

Street-lighting was put up in the cow yards, hedges were ripped up and ancient outbuildings were demolished in the name of agricultural progress. "He has ruined the place. What he did was criminal. He ripped out all the old features of the house, like the flagstone floor of the hall where he wanted to put marble down," says Stuart Blyth, who sold the farm to Nadir. "It was as if Dallas had come to Leicestershire."

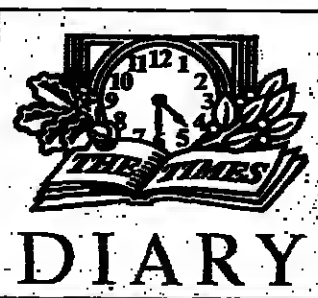
Harborough council is still trying to right the wrongs he committed without planning permission. "We are still negotiating, trying to put things back as they were," says Rosalind Willatts, the conserva-

tion officer. "I was aghast when I first saw what he had done." Only the cattle breeding world benefited from Nadir's investment, it appears. "He bought a lot of exceptional cattle and had some tremendous show successes," said David Benson, secretary of the British Charolais Society. "But people like him who throw money at the breed, they come and they go." As Nadir now has.

● No wonder the Tories seem to be losing ground in Newbury. Do they even know where it is? The last minute appeals that went out to other associations to send their best troops to the town to bolster support were co-ordinated by David Smith... from *Conservatives Abroad*.

Nautical voting

FOR millions of voters in England and Wales, today's local authority elections draw to a close yet another campaign. But the 14 residents of Lundy may be forgiven for not noticing. Since campaigning began, not a single poster or canvasser has disturbed the peace of their island in the Bristol Chan-



DIARY

nel, which, for political purposes, counts as part of Devon.

It sounds heavenly — but not, it seems, to the Lundy residents, who cast their votes yesterday in a postal ballot. "Our votes will only count if the boat can make it across today," says John Puddy, speaking from the island's only telephone. "We are a bit out of touch. No one bothers to canvas us. We are a little put out that we don't have our own polling station." Still, the Lundy vote was duly dispatched by boat yesterday, into what was described as a "strong easterly wind". Now there's a challenge for the Swingometer.

Table talk

VISCOUNT LINLEY, no slouch when it comes to the not so noble art of public relations, has ensured

that his autumn nuptials neatly coincide with the publication of his first book. Appropriately for an alumnus of John Makepeace's furniture school, Linley's literary debut is to be a coffee-table book, *Classical Furniture*, illustrated by more than 100 colour plates.

Linley's publisher, Pavilion Books, is delighted by the prospect of their author being joined by his intended, Lady Serena Stanhope, at book-signings. An initial print run of 20,000, almost unheard of for an art book, is likely. Pavilion's managing director, Colin Webb, says: "The possibility of them appearing together to promote the book is every publisher's dream."

The dream has been boosted by the Queen Mother, who has written what is believed to be her first ever foreword. She is particularly proud of Linley, says Webb. "She has directed and encouraged him in various ways. She is a great collector of art and furniture."

● It's a jungle out there. William Waldegrave, speaking at Lord Zuckerman's memorial service in London, remembered the farewell lunch Baroness Thatcher gave Zuckerman when he stood down as president of the parliamentary scientific committee in 1976. "She said the only reason he had survived so long in the corridors of power was that he had been trained in the world of apes."

Officially secret THE first book that claims to tell the story of the British intelligence services since the Cold War, *The Silent Conspiracy*, seems to have fallen foul of its own intrigue. It was due to be published next week, but all 5,000 copies of Stephen Dorrell's book, which delves into the murky waters of MI5 and Special Branch dirty tricks, have been withdrawn.

The affair is embarrassing for Heineemann, which had already sent copies to reviewers, but which now has to take out one page and amend another passage. The first

which is believed to involve a Special Branch officer, was judged to be libellous.

The second passage concerns the forthcoming trial of a former systems sales manager at GEC-Marconi who is charged with breaching the Official Secrets Act. It is believed the Attorney General's office, which obtained early copies of the book, judged the passage potentially prejudicial.

Dorrell, who edits *Lobster*, a spy magazine, is apologetic. "The passage that is coming out is a completely genuine mistake. The second I didn't realise would be prejudicial. I was very surprised that the first could be described as libellous, but then I'm always very surprised by libel."

● Jacques Attali upstaged? Never! No sooner had Robin Orr, emeritus professor of music at Cambridge, indicated that he would not attend the lecture to be delivered to the university music faculty today by the flamboyant banker than Attali himself cancelled — for the second time in a year. Orr's absence was reportedly in protest at the contrast in funds between European banking and higher education. Attali's absence is put down to pressure of work, the same excuse he used last October. A third invite is not likely.

Perthshire the short-term answer is a regular reshuffle of permanent secretaries. Of course they are already moved from time to time, but these moves seem to be driven by succession-planning to meet retirements or removals, or by the career interests of the person being moved or someone else down the chain. Finding the right person for the job and meeting the needs of government policy seem to be low priorities.

Ministers should be able to reshuffle permanent secretaries to meet their needs, as in other countries. The Australian federal government has just undertaken such a reshuffle, and such an approach would be beneficial in Britain too, if ministers are to be sure that their objectives will be pursued, and that the roles of adviser and advisee stay the right way up.

At the moment, no doubt, all over Whitehall, permanent secretaries are preparing to brief new ministers once the expected changes have happened. Why are ministers not preparing to brief their new permanent secretaries? Why not indeed?

Sir Peter Kemp was a senior civil servant in the cabinet office until 1992.



Tibet's envoy of peace

The Dalai Lama's message of toleration allied to material progress is just what the West — and the Chinese — need to hear

There are four great international religions, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Two of them have single leaders who enjoy authority outside their own particular religious group; Christianity has His Holiness the Pope and Buddhism has His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This week the Dalai Lama has been in London; I have attended two of his addresses, and on Monday I had a conversation with him. To a Christian, the most striking thing about the Dalai Lama is that he is a Christ-like figure. He shows the characteristics of compassion, detachment from worldly anxieties, love for other people and peace of mind which Christians mystics have sought through meditation on the life and personality of Christ. Talking to him deepens one's Christian faith, and makes one more and not less Christian. It gives great peace of mind.

His own attitude to Christianity is ecumenical, in the way that Pope John XXIII was ecumenical. "I consider the essence of all religions is a good heart, compassion, forgiveness, respect for other lives, a sense of brotherhood, sisterhood. These are the essential message of various religions. We use the same material, like gold, but we can change the shape according to our practical needs. So similarly religion has the same essence, but the requirement in our daily life is of new approaches."

The Dalai Lama's life has also been Christ-like in his ability to transcend suffering, while remaining compassionate, calm, and advocating a non-violent response. We talked about the Chinese treatment of Tibet, the population transfer which has made the Tibetans a minority in their own country, the privileges of the Chinese population in Tibet, the police state, the arrests and torture, the destruction of the forests, the stationing of nuclear weapons threatening India. Indeed the Indo-Chinese division is now somewhat reminiscent of the division between Eastern and Western Europe in the Cold War years. Tibet lies in between, under Chinese occupation, as Poland lay between the Russians and the West. Since the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950, and his own flight to India in 1959, the Dalai Lama has carried the responsibility for leading the Tibetan people in their sufferings.

The Dalai Lama has not come to London to ask us for anything politically difficult. "If you much you can do, I don't know," he said. However, he has asked the United States for something very im-

portant. In Washington he saw President Clinton and Vice-President Gore, and asked them to put economic pressure on China by refusing to continue to accord it "most favoured nation" trading status — worth billions of dollars to China — without imposing conditions.

President Bush vetoed three Congressional bills which sought to impose conditions. During his campaign, President Clinton supported conditions, and there are now bills in both Houses of Congress which would impose conditions designed to protect civil rights in China, to end population transfer and protect civil rights in Tibet, and to deal with the West without changing their political position.

The question could scarcely be more important for Tibet, for Hong Kong, for China, for America or for the world. Is it right for the Americans to use China's \$18 billion trade surplus with them as leverage to protect Tibet, Hong Kong and the civil rights of the Chinese people themselves, or would it be better to give unconditional assistance in the hope that material prosperity will itself liberalise China? Chris Patten flew to Washington to advocate non-conditional access for the Dalai Lama to the American market. The Dalai Lama advocates conditional access.

Both want China to have the economic benefits both believe in dialogue both take a non-violent approach. But one wants the United States to set conditions, and the other does not. I suspect that the Congressional position of the Democrats — reinforced by the Serbian lesson that great powers who want to set political results have to use their leverage — will tip the scales in Washington in favour of conditions. The Chinese will talk about concessions and dialogue, but the Americans will want proof. It should be a test of China's good faith that population transfer in Tibet is brought to an end and genuine negotiation between China and the Dalai Lama on Tibet's constitutional future is begun.

As the Dalai Lama observes, there are in China "intellectuals, educated people and students who are really eager for democracy and freedom". No doubt they are just as keen as he is that the Americans should impose conditions. But they are the very people of whom the hardline leadership is afraid. Not only is the issue historically important, it will also be extraordinarily difficult to resolve. There will presumably have to be a major negotiation between the United States and China.

This is one of the great international issues, but I found my conversation with the Dalai Lama on religious questions equally fascinating, and perhaps even

more moving. He has an extraordinarily wide range. One expects a religious leader to have high spiritual experience; he is also very practical in his approach. Because he understands the spirit, he understands the reality of the world as well. I asked him, in a rather superficial Western way, whether he thought that Asia was becoming too materialist, following the Western pattern.

"I personally want to see Asia much more materialist," he said. "It is necessary, including Tibet. If one day the Tibetan herdsmen, living in their tents, had inside some television or an electricity generator, that would be very good, provided in a more balanced way they keep the deep insight of human value. That means a special calmness of mind, a harmonious attitude to fellow human beings and the environment. I think now the time has come to think more of humanity than of my nation or that nation. Then automatically, through such a manner of thinking, each individual mind is open."

He emphasised his attitude to human rights: "We are the same human beings, we have the same experience. As far as human rights are concerned, there are no differences between rich and poor, or educated and uneducated, even the Queen of England and the beggar in the street. The same." He praised the West's contribution to liberalism and democracy, which he believes is the way for Asia also. He criticised us for readiness to use force. "In international relations you still consider the old means of using strength or force. That I always think is wrong."

After the Chinese invasion, the Dalai Lama went to Peking and had talks with Chairman Mao, who told him that the Tibetans were weak, but that a time would come when the Tibetans would be needed to help China. That strange and perhaps cynical prophecy may now come true. The Tibetan exile, though only of some 120,000 people, has spread in the West the spirit of Buddhist compassion, for people and the environment. This is one of the strongest contemporary spiritual influences, a vital influence on Christianity. Like the West, China is solving material problems while in a state of profound spiritual confusion. If only the Chinese understood what a jewel they have thrown away in Tibet, what a good neighbour and loving friend Tibet can still be to them. What the Dalai Lama offers is the very gift China most needs.

Mandarins are not the only fruit

Ministers should shuffle advisers too, says Peter Kemp

In a few weeks the prime minister is expected to announce a reshuffle, no doubt precipitated by a bad result at Newbury. But will he be reshuffling the right people? Instead of moving ministers, who typically serve in office for shorter terms than their European or international counterparts, should he not reshuffle those with a more permanent grip on public policy: Whitehall's permanent secretaries?

At a time when the executive functions of government are being effectively reformed, through the citizen's charter and William Waldegrave's commitment to "reinventing government", the policy functions are little affected. Benefits are better delivered, but Whitehall is struggling to bring the social security budget under control. Tax is collected more efficiently, but business leaders seem to have lost confidence in top Treasury and Bank officials in their conduct of economic policy. And this week the Manic Churchill hearings are turning a spotlight on departmental officials.

I believe it is possible to extend the reforms of the executive machinery into the policy machine. The new approaches and disciplines are transferable, by giving policymakers specific tasks and targets, putting named individuals in charge and making them accountable, and by more openness. But one vital part of this approach is not yet on the agenda when it comes to policymaking.

This is a minister's power of choice over his or her principal adviser, the permanent secretary. Classically the permanent secretary is both the adviser on policy and the manager of the department. The second role, however, is disappearing as agencies take over executive functions, and increasingly they will take over much of policy, too, on a contract basis. What is left is advice.

Here ministers have little effective choice. Elected ministers are appointed to implement government policy, but often find themselves advised by sitting tenants who are not effective in delivering. This is why, 25 years ago, the Fulton committee recommended breaking the permanent secretary monopoly on policy advice.

One need not be an addict of Yes, Minister to appreciate that "We tried it a few years back" and "Your predecessor couldn't get it past his colleagues" are potent arguments coming from an intelligent, entrenched and charming adviser, who may have been years in the job. Permanent secretaries may be appointed at younger than 50, so they may have a dozen years in the job, which is much longer than ministers.

There is some merit in the argument that to make democracy work, there must be some ballast of cautious people whose experience and wisdom can be relied upon, even at the risk of halting policy innovation and improvement. But the consequence may be a policy machine that doesn't give ministers adequate support, or underachievers, or makes simple mistakes.

So the question is how to provide ministers with a choice of advisers while recognising the need for ballast? One option is to let ministers choose their principal advisers themselves, without more ado, from inside or outside the system. But such radical change would be a serious shock, and is probably not yet acceptable.

A second option is open competition. This is beginning to occur, but not among principal permanent secretaries. It applies at the moment largely to specialist jobs, such as the chief economic adviser to the Treasury and the head of the Central Statistical Office, but should continue to gain ground. It is especially important that there be some thorough assessment of candidates' skills for the job to be done, through the civil service commissioners. The New Zealand equivalent of the commissioners themselves appoint their permanent secretaries — now renamed chief executives — with a cabinet veto, on fixed term, performance-tested contracts. This modern system will, in my view, gradually replace the old internal procedures.

Perthshire the short-term answer is a regular reshuffle of permanent secretaries. Of course they are already moved from time to time, but these moves seem to be driven by succession-planning to meet retirements or removals, or by the career interests of the person being moved or someone else down the chain. Finding the right person for the job and meeting the needs of government policy seem to be low priorities.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR ROBERT SERJEANT

Robert Bertram Serjeant, Professor of Arabic at Cambridge University, 1970-82, died on April 29 aged 78. He was born on March 23, 1915.

"BOB" Serjeant was probably the premier British Arabist of his day. With his emphasis on the value of going to view the actual terrain, he was certainly the most energetic and active. But despite his love of adventure there was a pedantic side to his scholarship, possibly the product of his Scottish background. He was not only born in Edinburgh but went to school and university there, taking first class honours in Semitic Languages. All this he had achieved by the age of 20. In 1935, armed with a scholarship, he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where, under the direction of Professor C.A. Storey, he completed a dissertation on *Materials for a History of Islamic Textiles*, for which he was awarded a doctorate in 1939. Despite the prevailing ethos, he had already decided that Arabic studies could not be pursued solely in the great libraries of Europe but had to be supplemented by extensive fieldwork. For example, in 1935 he had already visited Syria and the outbreak of war found him in Aden.

When Italy entered the conflict and quickly overran the then British Somaliland, there was a distinct possibility that its large and well-equipped

army might cross the Red Sea. To prevent this the youthful Serjeant was sent off on a camel with a wireless set and a handful of tribal irregulars. The collapse of the Italian Empire in East Africa perhaps deprived him of the chance of becoming a second Lawrence of Arabia. During those two years, however, he had found the area which was to dominate his interests for the whole of his career.

He returned home to work for the BBC Arabic Service, editing *The Arabic Listener*, and other publications in that language, and their success was due in no small measure to the absolute precision of expression upon which he always insisted. He had been appointed a lecturer in the School of Oriental and African Studies and at the end of the war he took up teaching duties there.

In 1947 he was awarded a Colonial Research Fellowship for a year's work in the Wadi Hadramawt, an area with a unique and extremely rich civilisation which had never been studied by academics (although some work had been done by scholar-administrators such as Harold Ingrams). Serjeant had to start from the very beginning, establishing the outlines of its history, compiling lists of manuscripts, studying the folklore and above all talking to the local scholars, many of whom had a great pride in their past.



He came to realise, and this was perhaps his greatest contribution to Arabic studies, how little the customs of the people of the Arabian Peninsula had changed over millennia and that by understanding them one could gain an insight into many of the actions of the Prophet Muhammad and even of his predecessors which was denied to those relying purely upon written sources.

He returned to the School of Oriental and African Studies, being appointed a Reader in 1948. In 1955 a Chair of Modern Arabic was created specially for him: this was particularly appropriate since, almost alone among his contemporary academics, his mastery of the spoken tongue

was as great as his knowledge of the classical language and frequently caused astonishment on his visits to the Middle East. He was often invited to speak on TV or lecture in Arabic and his fluency stood him in good stead when in 1963 he paid his first visit to North Yemen, then suffering from Nasserite aggression. He travelled with the Royalist forces, walking hundreds of miles over the mountains and hiding in caves from air attack. His reports, together with those of Lieutenant-Colonel "Billie" McLean, MP, and Wilfred Thesiger, acted as a valuable corrective to the propaganda of the Egyptian press.

In 1964, in order to have more opportunity and a more

congenial atmosphere for research, he resigned his Chair in London and returned to Cambridge. He was soon made a Reader and director of the Middle East Centre and, when Professor A.J. Arberry died in office in 1969, there was no doubt that Serjeant was the only possible successor to the Sir Thomas Adams professorship, the oldest Chair of Arabic in the country.

He published few books but numerous articles of the highest scholarship (which, his friends delighted to point out, normally contained more footnotes than text), started *Arabian Studies*, the first interdisciplinary academic journal devoted to the Peninsula, and was a founding member of both the Arabian Seminar Society which brought about many successful and congenial meetings of scholars who had previously known each other only on paper, and of the Middle East Libraries Committee which tried to apportion responsibilities for collecting materials among various universities so that everything was covered and wasteful duplication avoided. He also organised the Exhibition of the City of Sanaa, which was one of the most successful features of the world of Islam Festival of 1976. Honours which came his way included the Lawrence of Arabia medal of the Royal Central Asian Society and corresponding membership of the Arab Academy in Cairo.

The particulars of his career cannot give a full picture of the man. He cared very deeply for his students, devoting to them endless trouble and often remarkable patience. He was particularly good with students from overseas, helping them with their personal as well as their academic problems and when later he visited them in their own countries, their affection for him was clear to everyone. A man of great warmth, he was "Bob" to hundreds of people ranging from ambassadors to mercenaries in the Yemen and even some of his research students. Socially he was the most genial and hospitable of men. His good nature engendered a deep dislike of guerdling and of the intrigue which is often necessary in academic life and this sometimes resulted in his unexpected abandonment of points of principle or in his not giving his juniors the support that they felt entitled to expect.

His marriage to Marion Robertson after his first return from Aden was extremely happy. Her liveliness and irreverence prevented any latent tendency in him to take himself or his work too seriously. A doctor, she often accompanied him to Arabia and many have enjoyed his shudders of pretended horror when she tried to speak the language with cheerful disregard for the niceties of grammar. They had a son and a daughter.

SIR PATRICK MACRORY

Sir Patrick Macrory, barrister, industrialist, military historian and originator of the Macrory report on local government in Northern Ireland, died on May 3 aged 82. He was born on March 21, 1911.

SIR Patrick Macrory was a businessman of wide interests, who will be remembered both for his adept handling of the commission which reorganised local government in Northern Ireland in 1970, and as a military historian with a special interest in Afghanistan.

The Northern Ireland connection came from a childhood spent in Ulster. Although he later made his career and home in England, Macrory maintained links with the province's affairs through membership of such bodies as the Northern Ireland Development Council in the 1960s, and was a friend of politicians from the Stormont Parliament. He was knighted for services to Northern Ireland in 1972.

In 1969 ministers in Westminster and Stormont, in consultation with James Callaghan, then home secretary, had agreed to lift the whole subject of housing in Ulster out of the hands of local councils and the housing trust. It became clear that a radical review of local bodies in Northern Ireland was called for and a review body was set up to deal with the problem.

Macrory, who was at that time working for Unilever in England, was given leave of absence to chair it. In only five months the Macrory report was produced — a clear and workable set of proposals which called for the transfer of responsibility for many services, including health care and education, from the county borough councils to the Northern Ireland Parliament.

No sooner had the councils been dismantled, however, than Stormont was abolished, under the Heath administration in 1972. This was a great blow to Macrory — Stormont's extended role had been an integral part of his plan — and left what became known in constitutional circles as "The Macrory Gap".

Macrory did not hide his disappointment and remained an outspoken critic on the subject of the Parliament's dissolution. In 1972 he was called to account with other experts on Northern Ireland, for a special session at the US Congress, and took the opportunity to defend Stormont's record.

In a letter to *The Times* of December 5, 1977, he again argued that his whole policy had been to transfer responsibility for services from one elected body to another. "Elected representatives are sorely needed to play the role of a vampire in a four-minute movie, and end the day by having a stake driven through his heart with a croquet mallet."

Macrory's greatest sense of achievement, however, came not from this nor from his many years in industry, but from his output as best-selling military historian. His books seemed all the more remarkable for being written entirely in the evenings and at weekends. His first, a thriller called *Bonfire* (1937), was a Buchanan adventure story peopled with loosely-disguised members of his own eccentric Ulster family.

He published his second, the military history, *Signal Catastrophe*, in 1966. A strong interest in his Indian Army ancestors led him to write this critically acclaimed account of the disastrous retreat of the British-Indian contingent from Kabul in 1842, and their subsequent massacre by Afghan troops. Considering the sombre nature of the subject, Macrory

reconstructed the lamentable episode with wit and skill, displaying a talent for anecdote, and characterisation and deftly catching the funniness of an age in which even junior subalterns advanced to war with as many as forty servants each.

Subsequent publications included *Lady Sale's Journal* (1969), *The Siege of Derry* (1980), and reminiscences of his Ulster childhood, *Days That Are Gone* (1983). His last book, *The Ten-Rupie Jezail*, a history of the first Afghan war, 1842, co-authored with George Pottinger, was published only two weeks before his death.

The son of a colonel, Macrory spent an idyllic childhood in Northern Ireland. After preparatory school in Donegal, he won a scholarship to Cheltenham College, and went on to read Greats at Trinity College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar in 1937, but a promising legal career was interrupted by Army service during the second world war.

In 1947 he joined Unilever as assistant secretary, becoming secretary in 1956 and a



director from 1968. From 1971 to 1982 he was a director of Rothmans Carreras. But Macrory had numerous other strings to his bow in the business world — as chairman of the regional development committee on the CBI, director of the Bank of Ireland, and General Treasurer of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He served on Lord Devlin's Commission of Inquiry into Industrial Representation and also sat on the council of his old school — Cheltenham College — for many years.

Despite his professional achievements he still found time for less conventional pursuits, ranging from ghost hunting to conjuring, amateur theatricals and limerick writing. He was a close friend of the film-making partners James Ivory and Ismail Merchant, who had approached him in the 1960s about filming one of his books. Ivory, on his first meeting with Macrory was persuaded to play the role of a vampire in a four-minute movie, and ended the day by having a stake driven through his heart with a croquet mallet.

Merchant was cast as a bloodthirsty Afghan tribesman in another, which also featured the young Felicity Kendal. Merchant and Ivory returned the compliment by appointing Macrory chairman of Merchant Ivory Productions UK and inviting him and his wife to appear as extras in *A Room With a View* in 1986.

Macrory was a born raconteur, whether at home or in his club, the Athenaeum. Nothing could stop him in midflow even, as once happened, when the ceiling fell down around him.

Golf was an abiding love, although his enthusiasm outshone his accuracy on the fairways, and he was flattered to be elected captain of Walton Heath Golf Club.

In 1939 he married Elizabeth Lewis. She survives him, together with their three sons.

MICHAEL GORDON

Michael Gordon, American film director, died in Los Angeles on April 29 aged 83. He was born on September 6, 1909.



Jose Ferrer as Cyrano de Bergerac in Gordon's film of 1950

THE uncharitable view of the directing career of Michael Gordon is that he began with quality and thereafter degenerated into schmalz. But that is probably too highbrow and academic a verdict on such a chameleon-like organism as Hollywood cinema — as well as being one which overvalues Gordon's earliest and most "serious" essays in directing. Certainly his *Cyrano de Bergerac* of 1950 is a valiant attempt at Rostand's story which holds a place of honour in American screen drama adaptation. But it now looks distinctly "period" and cannot hold a candle to Jean-Paul Rappeneau's ravishingly-shot French version of 1990.

The theory is that the rough handling Gordon had at the hands of the Hollywood blacklist finally compromised his integrity; that thereafter he simply could not direct a good film. But this is slightly unfair to Pillow Talk (1959), whose smash hit success would of itself have earned Gordon a place in the annals of movie-making. In terms of the future of the genre it represented, it was simply the film's misfortune to see its somewhat arch approach to sex soon superseded by the steamier ethos of the Sixties. But greater candour was simply not available to it in the Eisenhower years. If Doris Day's kitchener version of the female condition has outraged militant woman-kind ever since, it was war for the course in the Hollywood of the time. When danger threatened women screamed, when men approached they melted.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Michael Gordon went to Johns Hopkins University, and afterwards to Yale Drama School. He began his career on the stage and had considerable experience as an actor before graduating to direction. Among the stage plays he did was Arthur Laurents's *Home of the Brave* (1945).

He had already been gravitating towards Hollywood. In 1943 he directed two low-budget movies, *Crime Doctor* and *One Dangerous Night*. But he got his chance to show his mettle with *Another Part of the Forest*, a screen version of a play by Lillian Hellman, dealing with the self-destructive greed of a family in the post-Civil War years. This, like its successor, *Cyrano*, was presented with great care, but could not help revealing the stage upbringing of its director.

Cyrano de Bergerac won an Oscar for best actor for Jose Ferrer in the title role. Its immense critical success was, indeed, a tribute to his massive performance. Once again, in retrospect, it seems a somewhat cramped, staid version of a subject which lends itself so well to the screen. But it marked Gordon out as one of the most promising of a rising generation of directors who were at home with heavyweight themes.

At this promising juncture Gordon's career fell foul of the blacklist that took place in the wake of the Hollywood hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Named as a communist, his Yale years had seen him in mildly left-wing company, he was blacklisted and compelled to find work outside Hollywood. Indeed, after recovering from a severe bout of ill-health, he was forced as far afield as Australia

where his first work after being blacklisted was *When She Goes*, a version of the early life of the pianist, Eileen Joyce, in 1953.

Returning to America and desperate to rehabilitate himself, Gordon changed his mind about the Hollywood blacklist and gave a certain amount of co-operation to the Un-American Activities Committee (i.e. retelling the same sort of bogus information about third parties, as had been used against himself). The malign climate of the McCarthy years was thawing (McCarthy had been censured by the Senate in 1954) and Gordon was later to say that he felt his action involved no fundamental compromise, as it would have done earlier.

In any event he got his first Hollywood job since *Cyrano* when he was invited to direct the glossy romantic comedy vehicle *Pillow Talk* for Universal/Arwin. It was the biggest hit of 1959, won Oscars for its writers, Stanley Shapiro and Maurice Richlin, and paired Rock Hudson and Doris Day in the first of a series of similar films. Of these Gordon directed a further one, *Move Over Darling* (1963).

He did not do a great deal in films thereafter. *Texas Across the River* (1966), starring Dean Martin and Alain Delon, appeared uncertain whether it was a spoof Western, or the real thing which had had jokes added when its producers realised that the script would hardly stand up as a serious comedy. Gordon made no more films after 1970, retiring into academic life as a professor in residence at the University of California at Los Angeles. Gordon leaves two daughters and a son.

Valentina Grizodubova

VALENTINA Grizodubova, a Soviet pilot who flew non-stop across the country in 1938, died on April 28 aged 83. She was, in her day, the Soviet Union's answer to Amelia Earhart and Beryl Markham. In 1938 she flew, with her two friends and fellow aviators, Polina Osipenko and Marina Raskova, more than 3,750 miles non-stop from Moscow to Komsomolsk-on-Amur in Siberia.

Soviet citizens listened intently for news of the three "winged sisters", as they became known, on radio bulletins. The flight went reasonably smoothly at first but just under an hour's flying time away from Komsomolsk

they ran into a snowstorm and the wings became heavily iced. Grizodubova was piloting and could no longer keep the twin-engine Rodina plane at the necessary height.

The women were saved by the courage of Marina Raskova who parachuted from the plane in order to lighten the load. (She was found alive in dense forest ten days later by a search party.) The flight set a record for a distance flown by women. Amelia Earhart's 1932 solo flight from Newfoundland to Ireland spanned about two-thirds of the distance.

Grizodubova was a heroine to a generation of Russian women. During the second world war she commanded an air regiment of the Soviet long-range air forces on operations.

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The search
for man's
ancestors

Deborah Warner:
a theatre director
takes on opera

Ambition blooms
at Newcastle
under Keegan

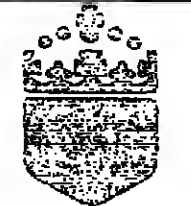
THE TIMES

2

THURSDAY MAY 6 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

CASH CALL



Royal Insurance is asking shareholders to support a £404 million rights issue following a return to profit after more than three years. Page 25, Tempus 27

ACCOUNT CALL

National Power and PowerGen have been asked to explain why they increased bulk electricity prices despite falling fuel costs. Page 28

SHOP CALL



More than 150 stockbrokers, banks and building societies will act as share shops in the forthcoming BT sell-off. Page 25

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5645 (+0.0082)
German mark 2.4738 (+0.0018)
Exchange index 80.4 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2796.5 (-16.1)
Dow Jones 3446.88 (+0.89)
Nikkei Ave. Closed

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 6 1/8-5 3/4%
US Federal Funds 2 1/4-2 1/2%
3-month Treas. Bills 2.80-2.87%
Long Bond 6.81%

CURRENCIES

New York: London £1.5645
SF 1.5675
DM 2.4738
Sfr 1.4180
Yen 110.21
Ecu 1.2650
London Foreign market close

GOLD

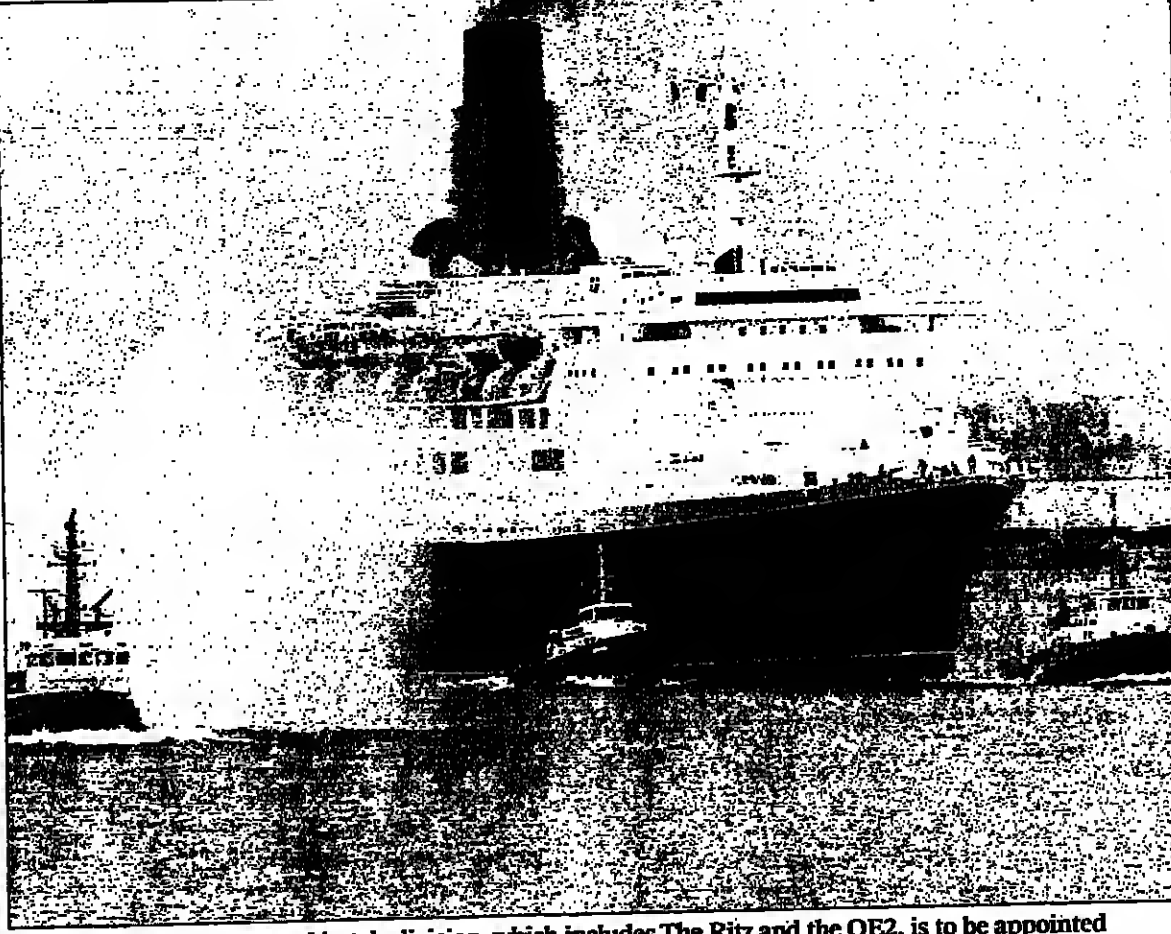
London Fixing (5)
AM 352.75 PM 354.25
Close 353.80-354.20
New York
Comex 355.05-355.55

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 138.3 March (1.9%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Sea change: a new managing director of the shipping and hotels division, which includes The Ritz and the QE2, is to be appointed



New Treuhand enquiry into EGIT investments

By COLIN NARBROUGH

FRESH from resolving problems over building sector investments by the London-based East German Investment Trust (EGIT), the German privatisation agency has begun further investigations into problems in EGIT investments in other sectors of the eastern German economy.

The agency, the Treuhand, confirmed yesterday that there had been problems at its Potsdam branch outside Berlin, where many of the EGIT deals were done. The politically sensitive matter is likely to be raised at a meeting of a special parliamentary committee in Bonn next week.

A task force from the Berlin-based EGIT's investments in Hausgeräte-Service (HGS), a household appliance company, and RFT radio-television. Both investments, and EGIT's investment in the property and construction firm Märkische Baustoff-Service (MBS), were made through the Potsdam branch of the Treuhand.

Hermann Beck, the head of the Potsdam branch, and his deputy, Dieter Franzen, have been suspended from their duties and papers removed for investigation by the authorities after damaging reports in the German press that claimed Potsdam was the fountain of difficulties for the

Treuhand. The Potsdam branch, on the outskirts of Berlin, has also been downgraded.

The problems emerging from Potsdam, including those involving EGIT, the biggest international investor in east Germany, are expected to be before next Wednesday's session of the cross-party Treuhand committee of the Bundestag in Bonn. The economics ministry is alarmed by allegations of improper and illegal transactions in conjunction with some privatisations by the Treuhand.

The ministry is worried that

internal revision at Potsdam has shown that documentation is "not quite tight". Although Treuhand officials have dismissed most instances of wrongdoing as one-off cases, a Bonn official said such cases had become a "few too many". He said the fear was that the rapid privatisation of eastern Germany, though a political priority, could produce a swathe of bad deals that will only be uncovered later.

Der Spiegel, the German weekly magazine, has delivered fearsome attacks on the Treuhand's activities, focusing this week on the Potsdam

office and a number of investments by EGIT. Sources close to Peter Brahms, the Treuhand vice-chairman, said the agency did not consider Potsdam to be a particular source of trouble, as the number of problem cases was few, compared to the tens of thousands of businesses and pieces of real estate the Treuhand had privatised since German unification. The further investigation of EGIT investments was intended "to establish clarity, not to throw a bad light on things", the sources said.

The London-listed EGIT, 23 per cent owned by Norwich

Union, has a blue-chip board that includes Sir Christopher Tugendhat, the Abbey National chairman. The Stock Exchange yesterday expressed complete satisfaction over the trust's compliance with rules.

Olay zi Ermgassen, the German director of Ermgassen & Co, the discreet Lombard Street-based merchant bank that manages EGIT, said last night that MBS had been a "substantial problem", but said there was no problems at HGS or elsewhere.

The London-listed EGIT, 23 per cent owned by Norwich

Direct Line chief to top £10m

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT



Wood: UK's highest earner

BRITAIN'S highest paid businessman, Peter Wood, the founder and chief executive of the Direct Line telephone insurance business, is in line to earn more than £10 million this year through a performance-related bonus scheme.

The estimate was made after Direct Line, now part of Royal Bank of Scotland, reported pre-tax profits had surged by 262 per cent to £15 million in the six months to end-March. Mr Wood's pay topped £6 million last year, and is likely to keep growing.

George Mathewson, Royal Bank's chief executive, said it

was much too early to say what Mr Wood's pay will be, though the bank has made a "guesstimate" about the likely provision to cover his pay.

Last year, Direct Line's assets were £304.3 million. Today, at the halfway stage, assets are £393.08 million and still growing. Mr Wood, 46, founded the business in 1985 with backing from Royal Bank. He agreed his bonus formula when he sold out to the bank three years later, staying on as chief executive.

Royal results, page 25
Tempus, page 27

Shareholders win battle for change at Trafalgar

By GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR

TRAFALGAR House's finance director is to resign and the group's auditors are to stand down at the annual meeting of the QE2, Ritz, engineering and property conglomerate. Simon Keswick, the chairman of Hongkong Land, becomes Trafalgar chairman in the shake-up.

The changes follow a stormy annual meeting in January at which shareholders forced the board to hold a poll over the re-appointment of Touche Ross, the auditor, after an order from the new Financial Reporting Review Panel (FRRP) to knock £100 million off 1991 profits and restate them in the 1992 accounts.

John Ansell, the outgoing finance director, stands to receive compensation of about £500,000. He is on a three-year service contract and receives a salary of between £150,000 and £170,000 a year. Allan Gormly, who became chief executive last October, said: "I think John has been badly treated by the outside world." The resignation of the auditor was "regrettable", he added.

Dermot McDermott is also leaving the board and is on a similar contract and terms to Mr Ansell. It is believed that fresh management at Cunard was thought necessary. A new managing director of the shipping and hotels division will be appointed soon.

The new finance director will be David Gawler, currently the chief financial officer of Hongkong Land, the Jardine Matheson owned group that raised its stake to 25 per cent after the £205 million cash call in February. Just after the FRRP struck and Hongkong Land launched a share raid last October, Sir Nigel Brookes, the former chair-

man, left the board to become honorary president and Sir Eric Parker, former chief executive, became deputy chairman. They received a £1.9 million payoff.

Touche Ross said yesterday: "We consider we have fulfilled our obligations to the shareholders of the company over the last 30 years and that it would not have been appropriate to qualify the 30 September 1991 accounts. We nevertheless believe that the company's auditors should



Keswick: new chairman

have the full backing of shareholders which we believe we do not now enjoy."

Trafalgar reported a pre-tax loss of £97.6 million yesterday for the six months to end-March after charging £100 million for property provisions and £20 million for restructuring. The half-year dividend is cut to 1.25p a share, and a total of 3.25p is forecast. Net borrowings fell to £329 million (£353 million) at the September year-end.

Tempus, page 27

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Anxiety among America's friends

British policymakers and businessmen see the world very differently from their US counterparts — and not only on the question of Bosnia. That's what I discovered on my recent visit to London. British politicians whom I met start from the assumption that America remains the world's richest and most powerful, the only one capable of keeping the peace and providing the economic locomotive to rescue Europe and Japan from recession.

Americans' declinist whingeing that their country is non-competitive, its manufacturing sector a hollow shell, simply do not sell in London. America is militarily and economically pre-eminent, more than one MP told me, and must be willing to use its power in its own and the world's interest. But circumspectly. Many politicians in Britain feared that America would act rashly in Bosnia. They worry, too, about what they see as President Clinton's vacillation, tough interventionist talk during the campaign, inaction since, punctuated by unpersuasive arguments by Warren Christopher, America's little-regarded secretary of state. Some of this can be put down to historic British

condescension towards America's foreign policy establishment. But some of the concern has roots in the new president's apparent inability to develop or stick with a coherent policy, or to take firm control of policy-making and implementing machinery. That is, in part, why David Koresh's self-immolation in Waco, Texas, has been as much interest in Britain as in America. British politicians say the incident is a direct result of Clinton's inability to staff the second tier of his government with experienced hands, something they put down to his insistence on applying racial and gender quotas to appointments — a policy regarded with something between bewilderment and contempt by almost every British policymaker with whom I spoke.

On the economic front, America is seen as clearly number one in wealth, dynamism and economic power. So there is little sympathy for Americans who cry for protection from foreign competitors. And there is great worry that the sparks that will fly from

friction between America's nascent protectionists and France's older ones will ignite a conflagration: the dreaded trade war. Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, is widely seen as a protectionist bully, with no understanding of the contribution of the multilateral free trading system to post-World War II prosperity.

The French are regarded with equal horror, especially during the run-up to their next presidential election, when the centre-right will want the votes of cosseted French farmers. In the coming trade war, as in the shooting war in Bosnia, there will be no unaffected innocent bystanders: if the Americans raise tariffs aimed at 'mini-vans' to retaliate against Japan, Britain's Range Rover will be caught in the cross-fire, British trade officials worry.

The president is seen as the one man who can rein in Kantor, and tip the balance in favor of treasury secretary Lloyd Bentsen, regarded as the principal free trade advocate in



STELZER

the inner councils of the Administration. But there is a dawning sense that Clinton's heart lies with Kantor, and with managed trade and bilateral market-sharing arrangements. Only the disparity between Clinton's tough talk and his much less severe actions gives free-traders in the City and in Westminster some hope. Indeed, there is a feeling that the president's habit of speaking loudly but carrying a small stick, unfortunate in foreign affairs, may be a good thing on the trade front.

Finally, everyone in London is curious about Hillary Rodham Clinton. Not because she is a woman: a powerful female politician is not an unknown phenomenon in Britain. But unelected spouses do not traditionally tell prime ministers what to do, leaving the British wondering how America could have arrived at such a state of affairs: an unelected woman, not even subject to Senate confirmation, restructuring a health care industry that accounts for 14 per cent of the nation's GDP. Then the British have always been puzzled by aspects of American life, ranging from the ubiquity of fast food restaurants to the paucity of leather-chaired men's clubs.

Heart of England set to merge with Cheltenham & Gloucester

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE Heart of England Building Society, which six weeks ago announced that its merger with the Bank of Edinburgh had fallen through, is now set to merge with the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. The merger is being rushed through with the help of the Building Societies Commission, but both parties say it is not a rescue. Mike Travis, chief executive of the Heart of England, said the society only received a formal offer from the C&G on April 27. The members will vote on the proposal at the annual meeting on June 8. The Heart of England had also been in talks with the Woolwich Building Society.

When the Heart of England sought permission from the Building Societies Commission for the takeover by the Bank of Edinburgh, this was not forthcoming. The Commission could not sanction the first takeover of a building society by a public company until the Bank of England gave the new entity a licence. No licence was issued.

The Bank of Edinburgh was formed two years ago with £26 million in capital from about 25 UK and European institutions with the specific purpose of buying and con-



Rescue not a reason: Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G society

verting a series of small building societies.

The £1 billion Heart of England's profits to end-February fell to £1.6 million because of higher provisions. Its reserve assets ratio is lower than the C&G's but it is still proposed to pay Heart of

England's 230,000 savers a 0.25 per cent bonus and give its 30,000 borrowers £100 off the valuation fee when they next take out a C&G mortgage. There are overlaps in 12 places between the 50 branches of the Heart of England and the 213 branch

C&G. The smaller society had already been considering cost-cutting measures such as branch closures. Its expense asset ratio is £1.62 compared with the C&G's 63p.

The C&G was aggressive in its merger policy in the late eighties, 1990 and 1991. This

year, its results were dented by provisions of £210 million, £90 million of which were from loans inherited from the Portsmouth Building Society. Last year, Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, said he would not be involved in any more rescues of ailing building societies. It had also merged with the Peckham and Walthamstow building societies. Other mergers could be on the way.

"We're always talking to people," said a spokeswoman, adding that smaller societies had not felt the pressure to merge last year when there was little mortgage business.

Peter Wood, chairman of the Heart of England, who will join the main C&G board, said: "In considering the long-term interests of our members in such a rapidly changing and oversupplied industry, we have come to the conclusion that opportunities will be significantly enhanced by merging with a leading society. Increased competition for business will inevitably lead to reduced margins and continued pressure on profits in the future. In recognising this, we have taken an early decision to secure our members' best long-term interests."

Mr Travis will join a regional board of the C&G.

Tempos, page 27

Warning softens Geest shares

BY GEORGE SIVELL
CITY EDITOR

SHARES in Geest, the banana and fresh produce group, plunged 68p to 366p after shareholders were told at the annual meeting that "little profit" was expected in the first half of 1993. Geest, however, believes the problems are short-term and promises to maintain the half-year dividend at 3.7p.

Leonard van Geest, the chairman, said: "During April, it became apparent that the supply of dollar bananas into the European Community ahead of the introduction of the new import regime scheduled for July 1 exceeded demand."

"We have seen an unexpected and rapid fall in banana prices throughout the EC to levels significantly below those achieved in the equivalent periods in 1991 and 1992. Since the end of March, our own dollar banana prices in northern Europe have fallen by 39 per cent."

Mr van Geest also said prices in Britain were expected to soften after the French announcement last week that it would limit imports from the Ivory coast and Camerouns.

Geest says "start up difficulties", notably at its new plant in Costa Rica, continue to affect profitability.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RTZ saves £156m with scrip dividend

RTZ, the mining group, will save £156 million this year that would otherwise have been paid in dividends and advance corporation tax on dividends after shareholder approval of its enhanced scrip dividend alternative.

Sir Derek Birkin, the RTZ chairman, told yesterday's annual meeting that metal prices may be bottoming, but recovery to higher price levels will be a slow process. "It seems likely that we shall have to wait at least until 1994 for a really decisive improvement in our operating results," he added.

THE French government, faced with April car sales 11.7 per cent lower than a year earlier, wants the EC's deal with Japan on car imports scrapped. Gérard Longuet, industry minister, asked Martin Bangemann, the EC's industry commissioner, to organise a meeting with Tokyo officials in July. The Association of European Car Makers published figures showing sharp declines in sales; the only country where relative stability was reported was Britain.

LIT Holdings drops

LIT Holdings, the financial services group currently in talks with bankers over a capital reconstruction, incurred pre-tax losses of £1.2 million last year, against profits of £1.3 million in 1991. Losses were struck after an exceptional charge of £1.8 million against doubtful receivables at LIT America, the US futures broking business. Provisions left a loss of 6.8p a share, compared with a 1.4p deficit last time. There is again no dividend.

US setback for BT

British Telecom's US expansion plans received a second setback yesterday when Wall Street Investment bank JP Morgan awarded an \$80 million global telecommunications contract to the American long-distance telephone carrier, MCI International. This follows BT's withdrawal from talks aimed at securing a stake in Electronic Data Systems, America's largest computer services company, which is owned by General Motors.

Vichy sale approved

FRANCE'S budget ministry has approved Nestlé's sale of Cie Fermière de l'Etablissement Thermal de Vichy, which has the concession to exploit the Vichy spring, to the Castel group. The sale is to comply with an EC requirement that Nestlé sell some French water brands to win approval for its purchase of Source Perrier. On Tuesday, Nestlé launched a 752 franc per share tender to buy out minorities in Cie Fermière, of which it now owns 52.63 per cent.

National Express offer

NATIONAL Express is proposing to acquire Scottish Citylink Coaches through a £5.1 million offer for the capital of the bus company's owner Salfire Holdings. Holders of 93 per cent in Salfire have accepted the offer. The payment is being satisfied by new National Express shares, loan notes and cash. National Express will also sell Express Travel, its coach operator, and Bruce's Coaches, the coach operating subsidiary of Salfire, for £1.2 million.

Day ends brightly

SIR Graham Day retired as chairman of confectionery and soft drinks group Cadbury Schweppes on an optimistic note yesterday. "Most of our businesses performed strongly in 1992," he told shareholders at the annual meeting. A feature of 1992 had been the strength witnessed towards the year-end, he added. Sir Graham handed over to Dominic Cadbury, a member of the firm's founding family, who moved up from the post of chief executive.

N Brown advances

N BROWN, the Manchester catalogue home shopping group, increased pre-tax profits to £19 million (£15.7 million) in the year-end February. Turnover rose to £171 million (£153 million). Earnings per share were 17.7p (15.1p). A final dividend of 5.05p (4.25p) a share makes a total of 7p (6p) a share for the year. Interest charges fell to £3.3 million (£4.1 million) and the sale of a share stake raised £0.5 million. Shares rose 7p to 365p before slipping to 356p.

Bad Japanese loans

BAD loans held by Japan's leading banks are estimated to total about 13.5 trillion yen (£75 billion), according to a report. The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* daily newspaper said Japan's 21 big banks will report the loan totals as part of their earnings results for the year to end-March. Sakura Bank is expected to report the biggest amount of bad loans at 1.4 trillion yen, followed by Fuji Bank and Sumitomo Bank with about 1.3 trillion yen each, the newspaper said.

James Beattie slips

PRE-TAX profits at James Beattie, the Wolverhampton department store, have slipped to £6.8 million (£7.7 million). Sales excluding VAT rose 10 per cent to £74.6 million (£67.6 million) but a fall in investment income and interest from £2.5 million to £1.9 million clipped performance. Earnings per share were 9.8p (11.3p). A final dividend of 4.6p (4.35p) a share makes a total of 6p (5.75p) a share for the year. The shares rose 2p to 143p.

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B.A.T INDUSTRIES

Earnings per share up 56% in first quarter

Three months unaudited results to 31 March 1993

REVENUE	£6,025m	+18%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£360m	+40%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	13.7p	+56%

- Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman, commented: "1993 has started well, with strong underlying growth helped by a positive impact from exchange rate movements."
- Tobacco trading profit slightly lower at £220 million, influenced by a number of short term factors.
- Financial services trading profit up 48 per cent to £169 million; net written premiums 11 per cent higher at £2,304 million.

Shareholders are reminded that the Forms of Election regarding the Enhanced Share Alternative must be received by the Company's Registrars not later than 11 May. The new shares can be sold through BZW, whose fixed price offer you have already received, or through other brokers who may make competing offers.

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c. Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

Profits hard to find at East German Investment Trust



In spotlight: EGIT offices in London

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

INVESTORS in the East German Investment Trust, the London-based fund whose investments are being investigated by Treuhand, the privatisation agency, were told at the flotation that the fund would "aim to achieve substantial capital growth from a portfolio spread over a wide range of industries." Since its February 1991 launch its shares have fallen from £1 to 90p. At the launch, two British directors were named in the prospectus. They are Sir Christopher Tugendhat, who is chairman of Abbey National, a former vice-president of the European Commission and a former Conservative MP, and Colin

Black, chairman of Scottish Widows and Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, and a former chairman of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. The independent chairman is Dr Rudolf Escherich, and other directors included Dr Olav zu Ermgassen and Christoph Freiherr von Hammerstein-Loxten.

Since the launch, Peter Dicks, who founded Abingworth, the venture capital firm, which entered into a planned voluntary liquidation last year, has joined the board. The five non-executive directors earn £5,000 to £10,000 for their duties and the chairman £10,000 to £15,000, according to the 1992 annual report. Neither Mr Black nor Sir Christo-

pher was available on Monday or yesterday to discuss their duties as directors or on the role of Ermgassen & Co as an investment manager.

The AITC, however, has firm views on what this should be. In its guidelines published as part of its submission to the Cadbury Committee, it said: "The directors of an investment trust ensure that the highest standards of conduct are maintained on behalf of the company and seek full assurances of the managers' stewardship and independent confirmation, where appropriate, from the company's auditors." There should always be a majority of independent directors so that the external management can sack the managers if they are not performing properly.

Investors will be able to air concerns at the annual meeting of EGIT on May 17 at its offices at 24 Lombard Street in London. Most of the shares are held by institutional investors with Norwich Union holding 23 per cent of the £50 million fund. It said yesterday that it believed the dispute was "a storm in a teacup". Another substantial investor said the performance of the fund had been disappointing. "It is not as rewarding as we would have like. The shares are worth 90p and they were £1. But you have to look at the conditions that have ruled since the fund started in Germany and East Germany and in the light of that it is understandable. The fund is buying up bankrupt companies in a highly charged political situation." The prospectus said the directors would be seeking a high rate of return. They believed that unification would result in "significant economic growth" after an initial period of readjustment.

Under risks the prospectus said that the trust would "seek to purchase the majority of its investments in investee companies from the Treuhand. In attempting to make such investments, EGIT will be in competition with industrial companies and other investment vehicles. Most investee companies in which EGIT may invest will have no relevant financial records, so that the decision to invest cannot be taken on the basis of historical financial information".

Royal Insurance in call for £400m with rights issue

By NEIL BENNETT

ROYAL Insurance is asking its shareholders to support a £400 million rights issue after returning to profit for the first time in more than three years.

The cash will be used to replace some of the £679 million the group has lost since 1990, losses caused by mortgage indemnity policies and a succession of natural disasters. During that time, the group's net worth has plummeted by £1.2 billion, to £1.48 billion.

The funds from the rights issue will be injected into Royal's general insurance subsidiary to boost its solvency margin and to enable it to write additional business. The rights issue is a one-for-three offer at 25p, compared with yesterday's market price of 30p. The issue has been underwritten by Lazard Brothers and Barings.

Following the sharp rise in premiums in Britain and America, Royal urgently needed to boost its reserves with fresh capital. Otherwise, it might have been forced to turn away business.

Along with the rights issue, Royal announced a pre-tax profit of £2 million in the first quarter, compared with a £48 million loss a year ago. This is the first profit since 1989, when the group made £126 million.

The turnaround was

■ The City anticipates Royal Insurance profits of about £150 million this year, the first profits since 1989, after a fall in mortgage indemnity losses to £90 million

achieved as losses on the mortgage indemnity business almost halved to £26 million, and the group forecast that its indemnity losses for the year would fall to £90 million, down from £160 million in 1992. Royal's American operations, however, slipped from a £6 million profit to a £10 million loss, owing to heavy losses from storms during the winter. Losses also worsened in reinsurance, from £6 million to £15 million. The group earned £906 million in premiums during the quarter, up 7 per cent on a year ago.

Richard Gamble, chief executive, said the turnaround was not necessarily a reliable indicator for the whole year, since profits could be hit by future natural disasters. The City, however, expects the group to produce profits of up to £150 million. The cash from the rights issue will also enhance earnings.

Royal forecast that it would pay a 6.5p dividend this year, compared with 5p in 1992. This helped to dampen criticism of the rights issue, which caught the City by surprise. Most commentators believed Royal would wait for another

year before raising funds, so that it could show a respectable profit record.

Mr Gamble said he hoped shareholders would back the rights issue in view of changes carried out in the past two years. Management has been reorganised and underwriting and claims systems have been strengthened.

Royal's rights issue follows a similar fund-raising by Commercial Union in February, and brings the total raised by the industry to almost £1.5 billion in the past year, to cover past losses and to make possible exploitation of future opportunities.

The rights money will increase the solvency margin of Royal's general subsidiary by 11 percentage points, to 54 per cent. This will enable the group to increase its premium income, which is rising anyway as household and motor premiums go up. The group pledged that none of the cash would be used to repay borrowings. These were £491 million at the end of March, down from a peak of more than £750 million in 1991.

Tempus, page 27



Higher dividend: Tate & Lyle chairman Neil Shaw, with finance director Paul Lewis yesterday

Sweet departure from Tate & Lyle

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

STEPHEN Brown, who quit as chief executive of Tate & Lyle, the sugar and sweeteners group, in early March after little more than a year, is enjoying a near £1 million payoff, taken out of the group's interim profits.

Mr Brown was on a three-year rolling contract, at a salary of £325,000. He is to be

paid in full, as Tate has failed to negotiate any reduction on these basic terms. In addition, he can continue, for six months after his resignation, to live in his £900,000 London house that the company helped buy.

Mr Brown left abruptly amid suggestions that he had failed to work well with Neil

Shaw, the chairman, who has, as a result, reverted to an executive role. Mr Shaw said yesterday that no single executive would be appointed, at least until he reaches the normal retirement age of 65 in three years' time.

Instead there would effectively be four chief executives, each running their own area

of operations, Mr Shaw said. The pound's devaluation on currency markets helped Tate's pre-tax profits move ahead from £59.7 million to £107.6 million in the six months to March 27. The interim dividend is raised from 4p to 4.3p.

Tempus, page 27

Official reserves begin to recover

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN built up its official reserves last month after a sharp fall in March as the Bank of England made its final repayments to European central banks involved in the failed defence of sterling in autumn last year.

However, the rise in reserves was not as large as analysts had expected and the Treasury's foreign currency borrowings remain much higher than they would have been without the sterling crisis.

Underlying reserves rose by \$62 million in April compared with the \$1.74 billion drop in March. Actual reserves stood at \$41.66 billion last month compared with \$40.90 billion in March and \$44.45 billion last August before the fight to keep sterling in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Although the Bank of England has repaid the credits borrowed from other European central banks for that, the Treasury still has high foreign currency borrowings outstanding. Its short- and medium-term foreign borrowings amounted to \$15.75 billion in August and jumped to \$37.68 billion in September.

Official figures show that this class of borrowing had fallen back to \$29.49 billion at the end of last year, still nearly double the level of foreign currency borrowing before the sterling crisis. Much of this debt does not have to be repaid for three to ten years.

BAT boosted by premiums rise

By CARL MORTISHED

A SHARP rise in insurance premiums has boosted first quarter pre-tax profits at BAT, the tobacco and financial services group, from £258 million to £360 million.

Strong performing financial services increased operating profits by 48 per cent to £169 million, offsetting the downturn in tobacco, whose contribution slipped from £227 million to £220 million in the three months to March 31.

The fall in sterling added £46 million to the results and earnings per share for the quarter were up 56 per cent to 13.7p.

Martin Broughton, chief executive, said lower tobacco profits were due to poor results in Germany — volumes were down after a December price rise, there was competition from cheap east European imports and more consumption of do-it-yourself tobacco rolls. A \$10 million provision for relocating research facilities and lower anticipatory buying affected the US tobacco result.

Mr Broughton said Brown & Williamson, BAT's US tobacco subsidiary, would use tactical discounts of its Viceroy brand to counter the price-

cutting challenge from Philip Morris, which announced in March that it would cut 40 cents off the cost of a packet of Marlboro.

The Clinton administration is expected to impose a rise in Federal Excise Tax on the tobacco market from 24 cents to \$1, said Mr Broughton. The US tobacco business represents 20 per cent of BAT's worldwide trading profit of £386 million and B&W's products are aimed at the discount end of the market.

Recovery at Eagle Star brought in a £10 million profit on continuing businesses compared with a loss of £36 million in the first three months of 1992. However, BAT continues to provide for losses on mortgage indemnity insurance with a £29 million provision this quarter and the company expects provisioning to continue at these levels during the coming year.

Premium income rose 11 per cent to £2,304 million, profits from life companies increased 7 per cent to £76 million and general business profit rose to £93 million compared to £43 million in the same period in 1992.

Tempus, page 27

Insurance helps Royal to £91m

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Bank of Scotland's Direct Line insurance arm will be the biggest motor insurer in the country by the autumn, the bank said yesterday.

Direct Line increased its pre-tax profits by 262 per cent to £15 million in the six months to the end of March.

Direct Line wrote 290,000 new motor policies in the first half, an increase of 132 per cent. Peter Wood, Direct Line's founder and chief executive, said the company will have one million customers later this month and expects to become market leader with 1.3 million customers by September or October.

Direct Line also offers household insurance and plans to increase activity in this area over the next two years. It also plans to expand its activities into personal loans. George Mathewson, the bank's chief executive, said insurance is likely to contribute substantially more than 20 per cent of the bank's profits by 1995.

Royal Bank raised pre-tax profits from £48 million to £91.6 million, exceeding analysts' expectations. The interim dividend rises 7 per cent to 3p. Provisions for bad debts rose from £163 million to

£183 million, but improved from the £237.8 million in the second half of the previous year. Much of the problem was in loans to personal and small business customers.

Royal's branch banking division reported profits down from £8.4 million to £6 million. Bad debt provisions were £134 million, though Kenneth Thomson, finance director, said all but one provision were for loans of less than £1 million. The exception was for £5 million and is believed to be for Royal Bank's exposure to Lilley, the collapsed Scottish builder.

Royal Bank's Columbus project that started last year with the aim of reducing costs is already showing benefits, estimated at £5 million in the half year.

The project is reshaping the branch banking network and will mean a reduction in staffing levels of 3,500 by 1997. In the half year, staff numbers in UK commercial banking fell by 1,270.

The bank's corporate and institutional banking division increased pre-tax profits by 39 per cent to £57.1 million.

£10 million man, page 23

Tempus, page 27

Share shops proliferate for BT sale

By SARA MCCONNELL



MORE than 150 stockbrokers, banks and building societies with a total of 10,000 outlets will act as share shops for the forthcoming government sale of another branch of British Telecom shares.

S G Warburg, the merchant bank that is acting as adviser to the government for the sale, said it had rejected an additional 30 firms. Most of these were not allowed by their regulator to handle clients' money and would not be able to apply for shares in the issue on BT's behalf, as the government intends.

The chosen share shops will be able to start marketing their services when the

advertising campaign starts on May 24. The shares will go on sale in mid-July. No announcement has yet been made on the number of shares to be sold or their price.

The share shop network first set up for the second sale of BT shares in 1991 has been vastly expanded. Only eight institutions, mostly high street banks, were nominated by the Treasury to act then and most declared the experiment only a limited success in fostering share ownership. The government's hope is that people will start to hold onto their shares and invest in other stocks, encouraged by the cheap dealing charges offered by their share shop. Share shops will handle

much more of the administration for the forthcoming issue, as members of the public apply through them rather than through the central Share Information Office.

Share shops will send their own application form to those who register with them. They will have the authority to apply on applicants' behalf, and will submit bulk applications with a single cheque. Firms acting as share shops will get a selling commission of 1.1 per cent on the first £8,000 of shares allocated at the fully paid price and 0.5 per cent on the next £22,000. As in the past, investors may also register with the share information office by post or by calling a central telephone number.

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Credit and wages hold the keys to sustained recovery

**Anatole Kaletsky argues
that Britain must aim
for a competitive pound
and low interest
rates to deliver the prize
of long-term growth**

Last week, I promised to outline a set of policies that would allow Britain to enjoy rapid recovery and, simultaneously, improve the balance of payments, narrow the public sector deficit and maintain low inflation. With yesterday's report of another solid rise in house prices, the task of devising a coherent policy package is becoming more urgent. Here, then, are a few ideas.

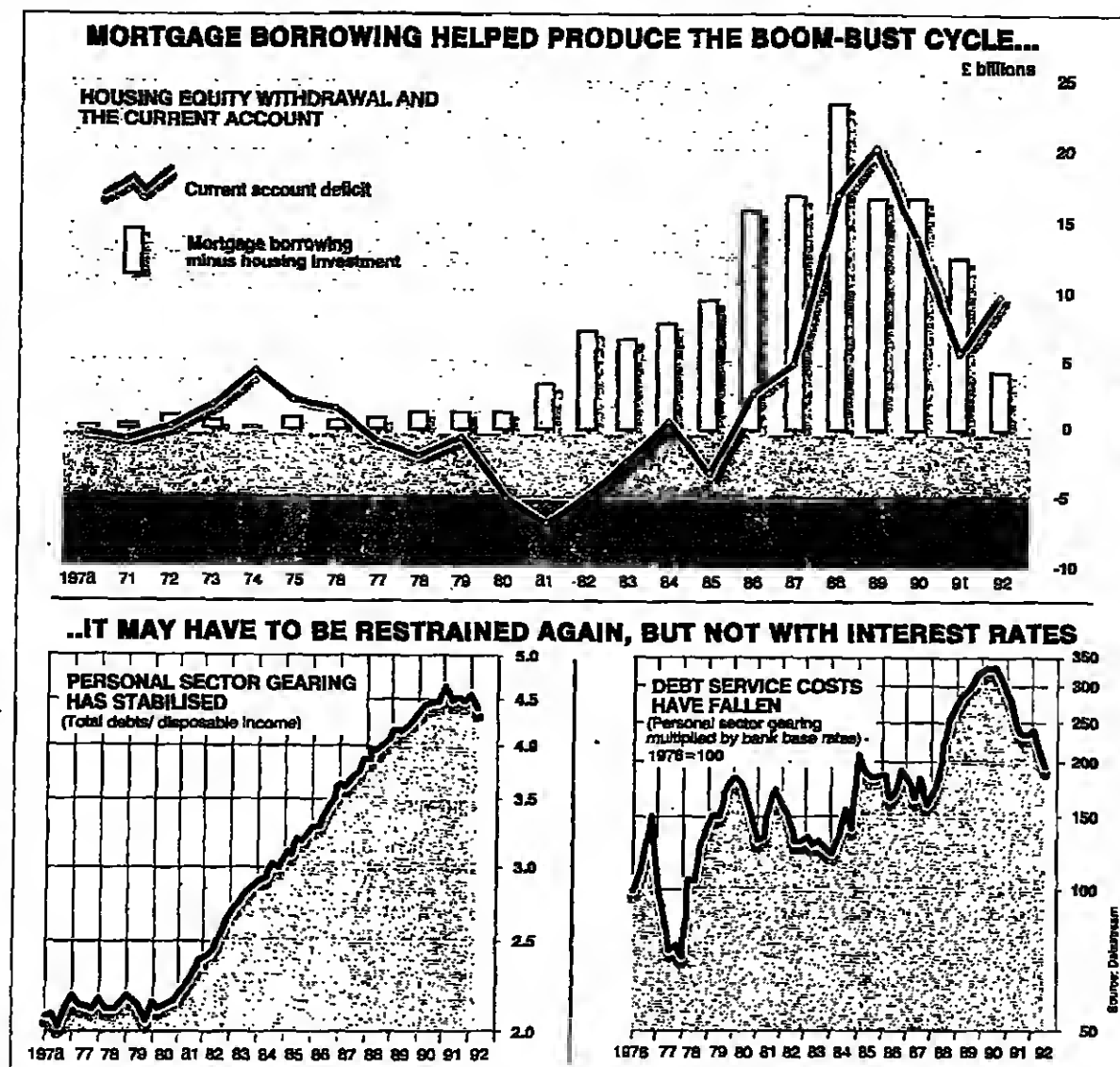
The overriding priority must be to accelerate the pace of recovery to an annual growth rate of around 3.5 per cent, in line with the performance of the mid-1980s, and then do everything in the government's power to sustain growth in the 3 to 4 per cent range for the next four to five years. A growth rate of 3.5 per cent, against the 2.75 per cent projected by the Treasury in the Budget, would make an enormous difference to economic conditions in Britain, creating an extra 200,000 jobs annually and reducing the public sector borrowing requirement to a modest 2.25 per cent of GDP by 1997-8. The question is how to achieve it.

First, the government must commit itself to an explicit growth target, to stand alongside its inflation target of 1 to 4 per cent. Targets are no substitute for sensible economic policy, as Britain has repeatedly learned to its cost. But in the present conditions, some symbolic commitment to the real economy would offer a useful counterbalance to the Treasury's previous obsession with financial variables and prices.

The government must then be prepared to use the three most powerful instruments in its macroeconomic toolbox — interest rates, the exchange rate and the regulation of credit — not only to achieve its growth targets but to ensure that the next economic upswing is powered by exports and industrial investment, not consumer demand.

Before I move on to the details, one common misconception must be addressed. Although exports and investment must sustain long-term growth, they cannot lead the recovery. Consumer demand must revive before there can be a serious upturn in investment. And without a strong domestic market, it will be very difficult for British exporters to regain their strength — as anyone who competes with Japanese manufacturers knows only too well, a strong and profitable domestic market has been a key component in their success. It would therefore be disastrous for businessmen and politicians to panic at the first signs of recovery in consumption and the housing market. For the next year or so, rising consumption and house prices will be unequalled good news.

Eventually, however, consumption will have to be reined in, to prevent a Lawson-style balance of payments ex-



plosion. What is absolutely critical is that the Treasury should not use high interest rates or an overvalued pound to control the next boom. If British exporters are to have any chance of restoring their world market share, and if domestic investment is to flow into manufacturing, the pound must be kept cheap and interest rates must be kept low, not just for a few months, but for many years or even decades.

The other standard ways of controlling consumption are through tough fiscal policy and wage restraint. But to go much beyond the fiscal tightening of the last Budget would probably be politically unrealistic, in terms of public spending, or damaging to the economy, in the case of higher taxes. Wage restraint will be essential if Britain is to avoid rising inflation and the government must set the tone for national pay bargaining. Beyond that, Britain can realistically hope that the union reforms of the 1980s transformed the climate for pay bargaining. But even if wages remain subdued, as they usually have in the early part of the economic cycle, consumption could start to rise dangerously after a year or two while labour market reforms may have restrained wage inflation, the financial reforms of the 1980s have certainly created an inflationary credit engine that could again spin out of control.

Everyone now knows that the most destructive explosion of the 1980s boom happened in the housing market. But judging by his speech on housing yesterday, John Major, for one, does not yet understand that the real damage was done by exploding mortgage borrowing, rather than exploding house prices. The top chart illustrates the point. As bank and building society borrowing was deregulated from 1980, homeowners began to borrow far more than the nation as a whole invested in building and house repairs. This excess credit, known as "equity withdrawal", built up spectacularly from 1985 on as house prices rose steeply, making borrowers, and lenders, more confident.

By the late 1980s, many economists saw that this build-up of mortgage borrowing was fuelling a dangerous consumer boom, negating the deflationary effects of lower government borrowing and causing the current account explosion shown in the chart. But instead of attacking the problem at its root — new mortgage borrowing — the Treasury chose to punish all existing debtors with extortionate interest rates and then singled out exporters for special torment by joining the ERM. Even at the time, it was clear that better options existed. For example, I suggested, in early 1990, that equity withdrawn

from the housing market might be subjected to capital gains tax, and a lively debate ensued. But ministers and government officials showed absolutely no interest. Since Treasury dogma insisted that there was only one way to regulate credit in a "free" economy, and that was with high interest rates.

After the horrors of the past three years, will ministers learn to be more open-minded? If they do, they will find plenty of solid proposals for restraining excessive mortgage borrowing, without crippling either the housing market or the economy as a whole with high interest rates. These range from taxes on equity withdrawal and stamp duties on mortgage instruments, to regulatory measures such as minimum deposit requirements and limited repossession rights for imprudent lenders.

It may well be, of course, that "burnt fingers" alone will now be enough to restrain excessive lending and borrowing. But, as the bottom right chart shows, the cost of servicing debts had already fallen sharply by mid-1992. It must now be back to tolerable levels. Once housing starts to recover strongly, something may have to be done to control mortgage borrowing. Now is the time to plan for this. And now is the time for ministers to assure anxious industrialists and exporters that high interest rates will never again be used simply to restrain mortgage demand.

TEMPUS Not Trafalgar's day

THERE is a world-class business somewhere at the heart of Trafalgar House but Simon Keswick, the new chairman, will have to dig a long way down to find it. The proceeds of the £205 million rights issue have vanished into a strained balance sheet. Debts, including off-balance sheet finance and discounting prepayments from customers, are still above £600 million, putting gearing over 100 per cent.

If Trafalgar was in a better state, its old shareholders might feel distinctly annoyed about the way Hongkong Land has won effective control of the company. As it is, the City has already cast Mr Keswick as saviour and marked the shares up accordingly when his appointment was confirmed yesterday.

Trafalgar badly needs the backing of Hongkong Land. Its parlous financial position is hardly the smartest marketing play

when pitching for keynote construction or engineering contracts, and the group's future success depends on its ability to defend and expand the divisions' £3.4 billion order books. Given the continuing dearth of work in Europe and America, it is hardly surprising they have opened a Hong Kong office to tap into Jardine Matheson's network of contacts.

While Trafalgar is determined not to sell its non-core interests like The Ritz at low prices, the case for disposals is strong. With the upturn in the housing market already gathering pace, Ideal Homes needs the funds to buy land. Higher house sales would help to restore the group's cash flow. As for profits, they can only get better. Trafalgar's new broad brush approach to property provisions should ensure decent disposal profits when the time comes.

Royal Insurance

ROYAL Insurance is asking its shareholders to take a leap of faith to back a £404 million rights issue. They have seen £1.2 billion of their money disappear in the past three years in a pit of underwriting losses. The dividend, meanwhile, has dwindled from 26p to 6.5p. Now insurance premiums are rising, Royal has been forced to return to shareholders to ask them to plug the hole in its reserves or risk losing business to better-capitalised rivals.

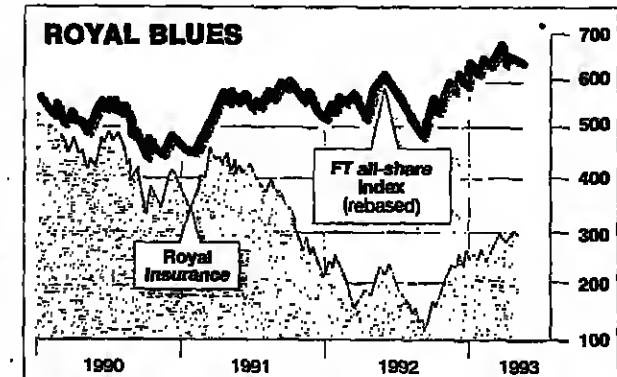
True, Royal's new management, led by Richard Gamble, has a better grip of the business than its predecessors and the group has recovered strongly, moving from a £373 million loss in 1991 to the small profit reported yesterday. But much of the credit for the turnaround belongs to the

market, not to management.

The most encouraging aspect of the rights issue is that the group has not tried to raise more. The new funds will boost the general insurance company's solvency to 54 per cent, which is comfortable, but hardly over-capitalised. If investment returns remain low for the next few years, the industry

may be prevented from underpricing risk as grossly as it did in the eighties.

Royal remains an attractive recovery play. On an ex-rights price of 195p, the shares are at a 3 per cent discount to net assets. Shareholders should back the issue, but be prepared to drive for cover the next time the insurance cycle turns against them.



Royal Bank of Scotland

THE efficiency gains that the Royal Bank of Scotland wrought in the first few months of its Project Columbus reflect how much fat it was carrying. The 32 per cent rise in operating profit to £285 million shows the bank has tackled staffing and technology in the way its English rivals were forced to three years ago.

That should not detract from the bank's success in getting through the recession in fairly good shape. While bad debts have been far worse south of the border, the bank appears past its low point. More worrying is the inference that provisions will fall only slowly. Royal Bank has some of the highest bad debt cover in the sector. If it cannot reduce provisions quickly, other banks could suffer heavy top-up provisions for years.

Royal has many attractive points. It has the best American subsidiary of the clearers and a superb insurance business in Direct Line.

the share price, which, at 267p, values the company at 13 times next year's earnings. Since most of the efficiency gains are one-off and bad debts will fall only slowly, that looks enough, however phenomenal the rise in Direct Line's value.

Tate & Lyle

NEIL Shaw's admirable intention to wean Tate & Lyle off its vulnerability to movements on the commodity and currency markets is taking longer than expected. Shorn of currency factors, interim profits show little change as problems addressed in one part of the world were offset by fresh ones elsewhere.

For as long as some watchers can remember, Tate has had high hopes for two new products: Stella, the fat replacement, and Sucralose, a sweetener. But Stella's market penetration has been slow with conservative food manufacturers, while Sucralose is facing another battery of tests imposed by the US Food and Drug Administration.

profit estimates for this year by £5 million to £10 million, due to sterling's recent gains.

BAT Industries

BAT cannot be blamed for being cagey about the likely outcome of an American cigarette price war. So far, there has been more shouting than shooting and the Clinton administration's fiscal attack on the tobacco industry is still an unknown factor. But the 23p fall in BAT's price to 850p reflects deeper concern than a 3 per cent fall in tobacco profits would seem to justify. The downturn in German cigarette volumes was not expected and a 25 per cent fall in the contribution from tobacco in America, ahead of the price war, looks ominous.

Downward pressure on the share price from American sentiment may be offset by recovery at Eagle Star and diminishing concern over the group's debts following the enhanced scrip dividend. BAT's main attraction remains its dividend which is likely to be 40p this year. There are very few companies of such quality offering a yield of 5.9 per cent.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Property pain for Newmarch

MICK Newmarch, larger-than-life head of the mighty Prudential Corporation, has learned to shrug off criticism about his salary over the years. But a curious arrangement in the newly published 1992 annual report may be harder to explain away. After recording that Newmarch's remuneration last year rose from £617,114 to £769,385, the report reveals that he, too, has fallen victim to the slump in property values.

In 1987, Newmarch and a subsidiary of the Pru paid £772,500 for an elegant Nash apartment overlooking London's Regent's Park. Newmarch paid £225,000 towards the cost. The flat was sold in January this year for £450,000 and the proceeds were split pro rata. The Pru says there is nothing unusual in using company funds in such circumstances, and the decision to sell at a loss is a sign of the times. A spokeswoman said: "He's suffered like everyone else as a result of the housing market going down." Unfortunately property encounters are nothing new to the Pru. In 1991, the insurer pulled out of estate agency after investing £340 million in a chain of 750 branches. They were sold for £30 million.

Asil quickstep

THE manner of Asil Nadir's moonlight flit will surprise few of the press veterans who pursued him around London in the early days of the Polly Peck debacle. The oily-haired executive took an impish delight in

outwitting newspapermen and television crews. On one occasion, after being interviewed by the Serious Fraud Office, he had an employee masquerade in his official car and sped off in a Vauxhall Astra before photographers could react. On another, he managed to "disappear" from his Berkeley Square head office — using a secret tunnel, or so it was whispered — and in one of his most spectacular stunts to date, left a meeting of creditors in Moorgate by driving the wrong way down a one-way street. As Fleet Street descends on Northern Cyprus, he may yet have a few more tricks up his sleeve.

Rainers recruit

JUST over a year after he stepped down as chief executive of Burton Group, the clothing retailer, Laurence Cooklin is trying his hand at prawn sandwiches — sorry, jewellery. He has been appointed head of UK jewellery at Rainers Group on a two-year contract for a reputed



£200,000. Cooklin, who left Burton in February 1992, will be among friendly faces. Gary O'Brien, group finance director, formerly worked for Burton — as did Mike Mitchell, the company spokesman.

THE National Blood Authority, based in Watford, Hertfordshire, is advertising for a personnel manager. Applications must be sent to a Mr Gore of Dagger Lane.

Director dilemma

THE trouble with being a director of so many quoted companies is remembering whose annual meeting you are at. As Sir Denis Henderson, ICI's chairman, found to his embarrassment and to fellow directors' amusement at yesterday's annual meeting of RTZ. One shareholder wanted to know the justification for executive directors' bonuses having risen by 48 per cent last year. Was it because they had eaten 48 per cent more business lunches? Sir Derek Birkin, RTZ's chairman, thought that was too close to home to answer, so delegated Sir Denis, as the chairman of RTZ's nomination and compensation committee, to respond. The no-nonsense Henderson thought it was a very good question, and said so. All but thumping the table, Henderson then let forth about the recession, and the need to pay competitive salaries so that "we can attract the right people to ICI — Ooops! I will start that one again — to attract the right people to RTZ". Henderson chuckled.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Charity ends at the clearing bank

From Brigadier Fraser Scott (Retd)
Sir, It is not only small businesses which are being unfairly treated, but small charities.

I am treasurer of two small charities. One, which banks with the Midland, had the small business terms imposed on it. But, on pointing out that the charity was subsidising their personal customers, the Midland relented and we were put on to a sensible basis. The other, which banks with Barclays, has been warned that small business rates (68p

per entry plus a monthly charge) would start mid-May. I have had no reply to my letter of complaint so the account will be transferred. Both these charities have balances with the banks of a few thousand pounds (not an overdraft).

Thank you for fighting this battle on all our behalfs.

Yours faithfully,
FRASER SCOTT,
Wooden,
Womersley,
Guildford,
Surrey.

Seeking added value in transparent accounts

From Mr R. Sneddon

Sir, Anyone who has ever tried to analyse company accounts must surely welcome the work of the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) and the various discussion papers which the Board is presently issuing. One such is "The role of Valuation in Financial Reporting", comments on which are invited by the end of June.

I don't think I am alone in feeling that there is a "black hole" in many company accounts and annual reports when one tries to tease out the current value of industrial property and fixed assets in general. Sometimes an apparent loss in the value of fixed assets (other than investment properties) is not reflected in the accounts under present practice because it is considered that the loss will reverse in the future.

In the late 1980s, for example, many companies bought or revalued properties at the height of the property market boom. In some cases, the assets have not been written down despite a considerable fall in value and when one

remembers that fixed assets can form 20 to 30 per cent of the total capital employed, this gives some idea of the depth of the "black hole".

It is, of course, difficult in many cases to determine whether the loss in value is temporary or permanent. The present Companies Act only requires that provision be made in respect of permanent diminution in value and the ASB recognises that the regular revaluation of fixed assets is the only way to resolve this difficulty. One therefore welcomes the undertaking by the Board to hold discussions with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to determine the frequency of external revaluations which can only lead to greater transparency in company accounts: an outcome surely to be desired.

Yours faithfully,
R. SNEDDON,
47 Falcon Gardens,
Edinburgh.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Roots of Lloyd's 'excess of loss'

From Mr Hugh M. Potterton

Sir, Your leading article on Lloyd's (April 30) does not highlight the key contributing factor causing the bell to toll, nor do other commentators.

The only restriction Lloyd's placed on a syndicate was the volume of premium income it could write, fixed in relation to the capacity of the names subscribing to it. Excess of loss syndicates writing high layers of liability in many earlier years earned good profits because the losses rarely reached them and the low premium per risk never breached the regulation.

When high exposure covers produced unforeseen losses, the failure of the underwriter to anticipate the extent of the liability to which he had exposed his syndicate was demonstrated. Perhaps he was optimistic or confident in the knowledge that his names had unlimited liability. Whatever, there are good and bad insurance underwriters, but acceptance of very high limits of risk must be anticipated as potential loss. That is why the bell tolls.

Insurance companies and many Lloyd's syndicates never accept a limit of liability beyond present amounts unless it can be reduced by reinsurance. Lloyd's excess of loss underwriters are not so inhibited.

The present proposals for change at Lloyd's to limit the liability of shareholders — names must inevitably restrict the underwriting freedom which is the key factor giving rise to the Lloyd's crisis.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH M. POTTERTON,
International insurance consultant,
72 Cleaveland Avenue,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Financial Report SKF's Interim Report for the Three Month-Period ended March 31, 1993

SKF is the world's leading company in the rolling bearings industry, with a world market share of approximately 30 per cent.

Group sales for the first three months of 1993 amounted to SEK 7,205 million (£654m) compared with SEK 7,158m (£688m) in the corresponding period of 1992. A comparison between these sales figures must consider that CTT Tools was included in the 1992 figure and that the Swedish kronor has weakened since the autumn of 1992. Taking this into account, sales declined approximately 9 per cent, compared with 1992. The Group's losses, after financial income and expense, amounted to SEK -355m, (£-32m) compared with a loss of SEK -34m (£-3.3m). The 1993 results were changed with a currency exchange loss of SEK 105m (£9.5m) attributable to the Pareto Company's convertible ECU bonds.

In the European market, sales in the first quarter of 1993, continued at the same low level as in the final quarter of 1992, but did not decline further.

In North America, all three segments — automotive industry, machinery industry and after-market — showed a positive trend during the first quarter.

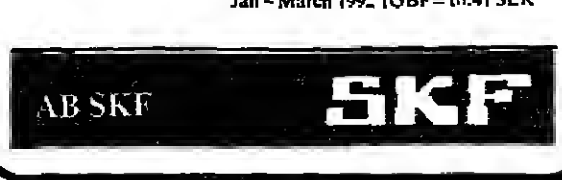
In the region reporting the best growth, Asia Pacific, sales increased in all three customer segments and the trend is favourable.

Forecast

There are too many uncertain factors in the market to be able to make a quantified forecast of the Group's result for 1993. However, if sales remain at the current level, the Group's result should improve gradually from the first quarter's level.

For a copy of the 1992 Annual Report, please contact SKF Group Public Affairs - S-415 50 Göteborg, SWEDEN. Tel: +46-31-3710 00

Average rate of exchange Jan - March 1993 1GBP=11.02 SEK Jan - March 1992 1GBP=10.41 SEK



Generators ordered to explain price rises

■ Constraints in the national grid may lead to a system of financial rewards to big companies for turning off machinery at periods of peak demand for domestic power

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S two biggest electricity generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, have been ordered publicly to explain why they increased bulk electricity prices by 9 per cent last month, though their fuel costs are falling.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, stepped in for the third time in two years after noting sharp price rises in the electricity pool, the power market at the heart of Britain's privatised electricity regime.

But blame for high prices was swiftly denied by Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chief executive. He said problems centred on transmission and on failings in computer software that runs the pool.

Power industry sources say that because improvements to the grid have not kept pace with power station construction, owners of efficient plants sometimes have to be paid not to produce power.

Those payments are raised through an "uplift" charge added to generators' prices. "We are not responsible for such increases," Mr Wallis said. "We believe that constraints on the transmission system caused by grid refurbishment in the north of the country are among the contributory factors."

He said there was also evidence that the pool's computers could not cope with the growing number of companies bidding to supply power as new plants were com-

pleted. "We are concerned about the increased volatility which has emerged in the pool in recent weeks," he said. National Power is believed to share many of Mr Wallis's worries. A spokesman said detailed responses were being prepared. But he dismissed any suggestion of over-charging. "We are still not recovering all the cash costs of our marginal plant," he said.

Professor Littlechild's alarm over prices coincides with initiatives to tackle other failings in the privatised power regime. Energy-intensive industries such as chemicals, glass and steel have been complaining for more than two years that they are being driven out of business by excessive electricity costs.

Yesterday, Peter Rost, chairman of the Major Energy Users Council, said he saw signs that some of the privatisation regime's failings might at last be being addressed.

In a speech in Birmingham, Professor Littlechild threw his weight behind a system called demand-side bidding, which would reward big companies for turning off machinery at periods of peak domestic electricity demand.

Tim Eggar, the energy minister, has issued a consultation paper suggesting rule changes that would allow some companies to cut transmission system charges and avoid contributions to the nuclear subsidy, which adds 11 per cent to electricity bills.

To qualify, companies would have to contract to take 95 per cent of the output of a particular generating set.



British ferry operator tests Madrid's rules of the waves

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

Spicy deal: Albert Fisher, the food processing and distribution group chaired by Stephen Wallis, above, is raising £25 million through the sale of the herb and spice businesses of Hunter Saphir, acquired in January for £29.3 million. The British Pepper & Spice Company and the Netherlands-based Euroma Holding are being sold to Burns Philp, an Australian group. The price includes repayment of inter-company debt due from Hunter Saphir. Mr Wallis said the proceeds would be used to cut debt. The businesses being sold would be better suited to a group whose core activity was herbs and spices. The merger of the fresh produce businesses of Hunter Saphir into Fisher's European fresh produce division had begun well. Hunter Saphir had net debts of £9.8 million when it was bought. Its herb and spice businesses had net assets of £21.6 million at the end of February and earned pre-tax profits of £300,000 in the last full year.

CENARGO International, a British shipping company, is about to test the waters of the single European market with a new ferry service between Morocco and Spain that could create a rift in Anglo-Spanish relations.

Cenargo has decided to delay the inaugural sailing, planned for May 16, in the hope that today's session of the Spanish-Moroccan commission for traffic in the Strait of Gibraltar, and a foreign ministers' meeting next week, will clear the political rocks from its course.

The London shipping company aims to open a British-flagged ferry service, Ferri-maroc, between Nador, next to the Spanish north African enclave of Melilla, and Almeria, on the Costa del Sol, in direct competition with Transmediterranea, the Spanish

state-owned line. The unwilling competitor arrives just as Transmediterranea, which runs services out of Melilla to Malaga and Almeria, on the Costa del Sol, is being privatised.

Michael Hendry, the Cenargo chairman told *The Times* that his company had been invited to start the service by the Moroccan government. It also had been given "strong backing" from the British government as the single market rules should give any EC flag carrier the right to open services to any other EC country, even from non-Community ports. The European Commission has given its blessing to Mr Hendry's plan.

His car ferry, the *Scirocco*, was to have started operating last month between Nador and Almeria, with a target of 200,000 passengers and 45,000 vehicles in its first year. But a warning from Madrid that the vessel would be arrested if it sailed to Almeria, prompted Cenargo to postpone the maiden voyage.

Spain insists that it has a bilateral shipping agreement with Morocco that has yet to be brought in line with EC rules. Alberto Azar, the Spanish ambassador to London, was called to the foreign office to bear the British government's view that the *Scirocco* was entitled to sail to Almeria.

But general elections in Spain next month are unlikely to foster a political climate favourable to yielding to foreign pressure, especially not from a British-Moroccan alliance. British sovereignty over Gibraltar remains an unhealed sore in Anglo-Spanish relations. A confrontation over Mediterranean shipping will not improve the situation.

Mr Hendry said King Hassan of Morocco was urgently trying to develop north-west Morocco, and Nador, as a free port. He said Morocco's cabinet met to discuss the pact with Spain. "Given the shortage of ferry capacity between Spain and Morocco, Spain is having difficulty explaining its stance," he said.

Philips surprises analysts by staying in black

FROM MARK FULLER IN EINDHOVEN

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics company, surprised analysts yesterday, with a smaller than expected first-quarter net profit decline. The company said the results in the first three months of 1993 were not indicative of a likely trend in earnings for the full year.

Philips, which has been struggling to cope with the malaise in its key consumer electronics market for several years, had been expected to slump into the red. But the company said net profit fell 59 million guilders (£21 million) to 103 million, compared with the restated 1992 first-quarter figure.

Dudley Eustace, the former British Aerospace executive who has been brought into Philips to shore up the company's financial position, said prices had fallen by 2 per cent in the first three months, following a 6 per cent decline in 1992. The pressure on prices was likely to continue this year, he said.

Mr Eustace, appointed vice president and financial director last June, said he expected "no relief at all" in the economic downturn in Europe, which accounts for two-thirds of the company's business. However, the US market was continuing to show improvement and the UK was "reasonably bullish".

The proceeds from the proposed sale of Philips's 35 per cent stake in its joint venture

with Matsushita of Japan will be used to reduce company debt. The £1.3 billion transaction, expected to yield a book profit of between £500 million and £1.5 billion will be completed in the current quarter, Mr Eustace said.

The proceeds from the sale will go some way to paying back £2.5 billion in short-term debt due this year, although the company said it was renegotiating part of these loans. Philips will have to pay back £1.1 billion in debt over the next five years.

Mr Eustace aims to reduce the debt to group equity ratio to 40 per cent over the next five years. At the end of the first quarter, this ratio stood at 59 per cent, two percentage points down on the ratio for the first quarter of 1992.

Philips will continue to focus on stringent cost and asset management. Over the past three years the company has embarked on one of the biggest job-cutting programmes seen in Europe. Although the company has stated it would not sell whole divisions, it would continue to weed out unprofitable businesses, Mr Eustace said.

Turnover fell slightly to £13.75 billion from £14.06 billion in the first quarter. The introduction of products such as the digital compact cassette and the interactive compact disc were going well, Philips said.

EC accepts debt plan of German steel giant

FROM REUTER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has conditionally accepted an offer by Klöckner-Werke to repay 6 per cent of a loan of DM175 million, the firm received from European Coal and Steel Community funds.

Acceptance by the Commission, which is tied to talks with Klöckner on capacity cuts, is seen as crucial to plans to restructure the German steel giant's total debts of DM2.7 billion.

German creditor banks had said that all creditors had to back the debt restructuring

plan for it to be enacted. EC commissioners Martin Bangemann and Karl Van Miert will start talks on cuts and the full 17-member Commission plans to issue its final formal decision on the debt repayment next week, said an EC spokesman.

Shares in Klöckner, which accounts for 10 per cent of German crude steel output, recovered from yesterday's losses on optimism that the debt restructuring proposals may succeed. They were up DM6 to DM53.

Glimmer of light shines on ghost hotel

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

LAI Sun Development, the Hong Kong property group, is offering to save the Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong, a glitzy ghost hotel in the heart of the Central business district, by taking it over for just under HK\$1.2 billion (£99 million).

The five-star hotel, still under construction, fell into receivership nearly two years ago when Ginzu Golf Service, its Japanese owners, defaulted on loans. For nearly a year, the 213-room building stood empty; the

stumbling blocks to its sale were the price tag and the rigid management agreement with the US Ritz-Carlton group. The conditional agreement by a Lai Sun syndicate to buy the Ritz-Carlton signifies renewed optimism in the hotel sector.

Andrew Luk, investment manager of the Lai Sun group, said: "There has been a clear turnaround in the hotel sector. Both profitability and asset values have been going up. We're confident

about the Ritz-Carlton because it has one of the best locations in town."

Details of the deal have yet to be released but it is expected that the hotel will open its doors in September. Analysts say the deal shows that the Hong Kong property market is strong despite unresolved political problems between Britain and China. The diplomatic stalemate in the past six months has not deterred several major property transactions, including

sale of the Standard Chartered building in Central.

The sale of residential and commercial properties is picking up, and retail rents have risen to record levels in prime areas. Gareth Williams, of property firm Vigers Hong Kong, said: "The property market's recent performance makes it clear that the political factor is now an integral part of the Hong Kong scene and has been largely discounted by most investors."

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The Liquidator of The Insolvency Rules 1986, a company incorporated in England, is hereby notified that the company is insolvent and that the Liquidator is empowered to accept or reject claims against the company. The Liquidator is also empowered to distribute the assets of the company to the creditors of the company. The Liquidator is also empowered to take any other action which may be necessary for the proper administration of the company's affairs.

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A black and white photograph of a man in a fedora and sunglasses, looking upwards. He is standing in front of a large, dark, textured wall. The wall has white text that reads "OUR FATHER GROUP HAD A WHALE OF A TIME".



THEATRE page 34
Peter Davison is the
unmaterialistic Leroy
Hamilton in Arthur
Miller's *The Last Yankee*

ARTS

OPERA page 35
Theatre director
Deborah Warner is
tackling *Wozzeck* for
Opera North



CINEMA: Geoff Brown welcomes *Groundhog Day* as a return to imaginative comedy

The difference a day makes

Name me a recent Hollywood comedy with an original idea to its name. I thought so. Relief comes with *Groundhog Day*, the most delightfully refreshing and funny movie to hail from the studios in many a month. The star is Bill Murray, unkempt king of the flip remark, the cynical leer. A few years back his career seemed stalled, but recent films such as *Quick Change* and *What About Bob?* proved that given bright scripts the scallywag could be genuinely funny, even likable.

Groundhog Day glories in a marvellous notion: what would happen if the time clock jarred and you woke up each morning to the same day, February 2? Possibly through a collision with a snowed-out television weatherman visiting the Rust Belt town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, for their annual Groundhog Day ceremony. According to tradition, if the furry creature, emerging from a box, can see its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter.

For Phil, however, there are no more weeks of anything, just multiple variants of February 2. The boarding-house radio wakes him at six with Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe". It's Groundhog Day again, and if left unchecked the people he meets — from Andy MacDowell's television producer (the girl he formerly covets) to a cloying old school friend — will do and say exactly the same things. No matter how Phil ends the day, locked in jail or trapped in a wrecked car, he always wakes up to Sonny and Cher.

Having hatched this ingenious device, director Harold Ramis and his co-writer Danny Rubin work another wonder: they refuse to squander it. Note the subtle changes in Murray's emotions as each duplicate day dawns. First comes confusion, then delight, then anger and bitterness, finally, gently skirting sentimentality, he turns Samaritan in the small town he now knows so well.

A critic would be a spoilsport to list the best jokes, though an obvious plum is the extended seduction of Andy MacDowell. The script never gives her much room alongside Murray, but she makes the best of her chances as the girl bemused by her unlikely suitor. And for director Ramis, *Groundhog Day* is a special triumph: who

would have thought the man behind *Caddyshack* and *Ghostbusters* could create a film so fresh and humane?

More good news arrives with Zhang Yimou's *The Story of Qiu Ju*, the top prizewinner at last year's Venice Film Festival. In style this is utterly different from its predecessors, rigorously stylised period dramas such as *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Ju Dou*.

With one leap, Zhang has mastered the secrets of realist filmmaking that other directors take years to uncover. The bulk of the players are non-professionals, cast as themselves; the camera often

Groundhog Day
Odeon Leicester Square, PG
The Story of Qiu Ju
Curzon West End, Screen on the Hill, 12

An Actor's Revenge
ICA Cinema, PG
Rich in Love
MGM Trocadero, PG
Trespass
Plaza, 18

mingles unseen among city streets, teeming with traders, bicycles and hubbub. This is largely a tale of peasant folk, but Zhang never patronises; he treats each character with respect and affection.

The time is now. The place is a village in northern China, where the heavily pregnant heroine (Gong Li) demands a decent apology from the local chief, who kicked her husband in the chest and privates. Wrapped against the winter cold in a head scarf and a tunic that barely covers her enormous belly, the persistent woman seeks help from the authorities in the nearest town, then in the provincial capital. She does not wish a cash settlement, though one is repeatedly offered. Like Zhang's past heroines, she stands on her principles, regardless of sex or social standing.

In place of his usual impassioned drama, Zhang explores Qiu Ju's story at an easy pace. Much quiet humour creeps in as the waddling mother-to-be tries to negotiate city life and bureaucracy's ways. At first sight, Zhang's portrait of Chinese life might be thought soft: the officials Qiu Ju meets on her travels are always helpful, and the Chinese

authorities, who banned Zhang's previous films, have clutched this one to their bosom. But Zhang's support is always for people and their traditions, not the cumbersome system that fails to give his heroine proper redress. Beautifully made and touchingly acted, the film rejuvenates the spirit and shows its accomplished maker striding boldly down new paths.

We stay in the Far East for Kon Ichikawa's visually exquisite *An Actor's Revenge*. When the film first appeared in the West in the mid-1960s, audiences were amazed by the use of CinemaScope, the Kabuki stage conventions, and the far-fetched tale of a female impersonator plotting revenge on those responsible for his parents' downfall. Nearly 30 years later, it still merits awe and applause, though there is a coldness at the film's heart that means we admire rather more than we enjoy.

The star of this icy circus is Kazuo Hasegawa, a seasoned matinee idol celebrating, so the credits say, his 300th film performance. Not content with emoting impressively as the effeminate actor, he also attempts some Fairbanks-style antics in a separate role as an underworld thief. But it remains Ichikawa's show. The impish director transforms his absurd material into a visual tour de force: the studio artifice is so overwhelming that the film almost collapses when the camera ventures outside.

Back to Hollywood. Whenever a character rhapsodises about the sag in the verandah and the sound of pop's lawnmower, you know you face trouble. So it turns out. *Rich in Love*, from the team that won Oscars with *Driving Miss Daisy*, patters along for 105 minutes with fancy dialogue, a smile, a tear, languid ocean views of sunsets and gulls and an aggravating absence of drama.

We are down South, of course, in Charleston, where Albert Finney, that famous Southern actor, sits dishevelled in a white frame house wondering where his marriage went. Finney, in fact, handles the accent well; like many others in the cast, it is the character he plays that proves fuzzy-edged. When his daughter Lucille finds her estranged mother living nearby, you might expect fireworks. But no: Jill Clayburgh's late appearance makes scarcely a dent in the daily



Good, clean fun: Bill Murray is a television reporter stuck in a time-war in *Groundhog Day*

round of a wanly eccentric family. Only Kathryn Erbe as the vulnerable Lucille creates a strong impression. Under Bruce Beresford's routine direction, the rest fade into the wallpaper, helped on their way by Georges Delerue's refined music (his last score) and images loved to death. This is the kind of film that gives good taste a bad name.

Cinematic decorum is not an

issue in *Trespass*, for the director is Walter Hill, master of laconic talk and slam-bang action. This forceful variation on *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* was originally called *The Looters*, but the Los Angeles riots put a stop to that. Two out-of-state firemen locate stolen gold in a deserted East St Louis factory. Alas, they bump into the local crime gang, up to no good on the roof.

And so to siege warfare, convincingly staged in a crumbling colossus of metal stairs, hidden chimneys and shadows. Reasonably exciting half the time, the film finally succumbs to dull excess. Through the turmoil you may glimpse Bill Paxton, William Sadler and rap artists Ice T and Ice Cube. They were bound to appear in the same film one day.

NEW YORK THEATRE: Jamie James on an American play's happy homecoming

Flying still higher

never exclusionary or narrow in scope. Even as a national epic for gay American subculture, it does not preach or strike a shrill note.

The play is a world complete in itself and thrillingly real, like a Dickens novel. The suffering of Prior Walter, dying of AIDS, is not made to be a symbol of the disease; rather, the audience becomes privy to the real pain of a real man. Nor is Joe Pitt — the innocent, confused Mormon who must come to grips with his homosexuality — portrayed condescendingly. Even Joe's midnight call to his mother to tell her he is gay seems spontaneous.

The acting is superb: if Ron Leibman's bravura portrayal of right-wing attorney Roy Cohn stands out, it is because the part is the most demanding. George C

Wolfe's direction is deft throughout; perhaps the only decision that might be questioned is the doubling of women in some male bit parts. Plausibly performed, the effect is showy, the point obvious.

Yet from the first scene to the devastating finale, the playwright Kushner is the star of this show, displaying a mastery of tone. The play takes us from Wildman wit to Sophoclean pathos, frequently within a single scene, but there is never a moment when it threatens to fly out of control.

It was the Royal National Theatre's fine production of *Angels in America* last year that enabled the play to attain its position as the year's preeminent American play; three weeks ago it was awarded the

Pulitzer prize for drama. Nonetheless it must be said that the Broadway production is superior. The sets in New York are at once more lavish and less obtrusive; still, the National takes the palm for "best angel". In New York the angel is excessively spectacular. But the crucial advantage is that Tony Kushner's verbose, edgy New York vernacular is conveyed with effortless precision.

Will Kushner be able to sustain his achievement through the second part of *Angels*, which is scheduled to play in repertory with this production next autumn? When the second part, *Perestroika*, had its premiere in Los Angeles last November, it was generally deemed a failure. Now, thanks to the vision of the National Theatre and an almost certain triumph on Broadway, Kushner will have the support to rewrite the second part in a way that equals the first.

Tussauds' design team save their most audacious fantasy to the end, when the train emerges into Nineties London, conceived as a reckless carnival. London denizens endlessly circle on a carousel or slide down a helter-skelter snaking around Big Ben.

With this phantasmagoric vision of London beyond Baker Street, Tussauds, whose fame lies in the creation of lifelike realism, now boldly challenges the imagination of its patrons. This is the singular, unforeseen achievement of "The Spirit of London". In the short space of a switchback ride, the designers elevate historical reality into a collection of dreams: an authentic Surrealist act. The ghost train becomes a work of art.



Ellen McLaughlin as the angel and Stephen Spinella as Prior Walter in the New York production of *Angels in America*

TELEVISION REVIEW: Lynne Truss

Sparing the rod is saving the child

like dice in a box, but to be even nicer to him than they were.

At the core of this amazingly effective experiment was play-time. Mum or Dad (not both) sat on the floor with the disturbed child, and played games with him. Meanwhile, watching the whole thing through a two-way mirror was a team of earnest female psychologists, one of whom held a large microphone for sending secret messages to the parent's ear. At first, the psychologists simply made notes, assessing the quality of the parent's contributions in terms of "child-centred" (good) or "child-directive" (bad). It all looked rather obvious, really; but then the milk-dog started operating the parent by remote control, and the effect

was — well, it was a miracle on screen.

Even though the child knew that this back-seat driving was going on, he responded to these new parenting signals with an innocence that was deeply touching. "Say to him, I love playing with the garage with you, Andrew," instructed the psychologist. "I love playing with the garage with you, Andrew," repeated Mum, at which Andrew was so happy he dropped everything to give her a hug. "Smile at him, touch his hand," the doctor said. And it was astonishing, the child didn't say, "Why are you grinning like that? Get those steamy mitts off me."

The psychiatrist mentioned that parenting ought to be on the

national curriculum, and one could only agree. If there is really such a world of difference between saying "Are you playing with the knobs, Andrew?" and "Look, you're playing with the knobs" — the first child-directive, the second child-centred — it is obviously a trick worth knowing.

A tiny syntactical rearrangement might make the difference between him growing up to be a hero or a hoodlum. Stupid to lose civilisation as we know it, for the want of a horse-shoe nail.

This fascinating little film, for all its specific treatment of a specific child (who still, of course, had a long way to go), seemed to carry a very general message. "Well done! That was really good!" said Mum to Andrew; "Well done! Very good!" said the psychiatrist to Mum. Oh, the hell with it, thought the viewer at home, silently putting away the blackjack and the special child-sized thumb-screws. "Well done! Hippy happy!" After all, it's not every day you see someone having their life saved.



A good clip round the ear seemed to be all five-year-old Andrew was in need of. At the beginning of last night's Q.E.D. (BBC 1), anyway, that was my own unreconstructed opinion. To someone who has little truck with children, Andrew's appalling uncontrolled behaviour — tantrums in supermarkets, screaming, climbing, flooding the house, jumping on his sister's head — certainly seemed to demand a considerably firmer response than the weary end-of-teaser shrugs he was getting from his Welsh well-meaning Mum and Dad.

"Show him the back of your hand!" I yelled. "Beat the devil's badness from him! There's no shame in it! See how he repays your patience and affection!" But it was no good. Instead of taking my useful clear-cut advice, Andrew's family volunteered for "the parent-child game" offered to parents of disturbed children by London's Maudsley Hospital. Which was where they learnt, to everyone's delight and surprise, that the best way of controlling Andrew was not to shake him till his brains rattled

From the creators of *RAISE THE RED LANTERN* and *JU DOU*

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THEATRE: Arthur Miller transfers to the West End; Dennis Potter is revived in Wimbledon

Accent on the positive at last

The Last Yankee
Duke of York's



Pat Hamilton (Margot Leicester, left) and Karen Frick (Helen Burns)

ARTHUR MILLER's latest play transfers here after an extended run of capacity houses at the Young Vic and, as so often in his long creative career, he writes of the souring of the American Dream for average small town people. Disappointment is the play's key word. Life for his characters has not turned out as expected. To be precise, life has not turned out to be as successful and satisfying as they had been taught to expect by that unwritten but implicit clause in the Constitution, stating that Americans possess the right to be financially successful and therefore happy. This inalienable right alienates all who fail, and many who succeed as well.

Apert from one character who remains in her hospital bed, Miller's cast is composed of two married couples. Marriage has always been for him a vital channel of human communication, by means of which individuals are nourished for their wider social commitments. The marriage is a microcosm of the human world, and both these marriages are in trouble — as is, by extension, the surrounding world that has caused the trouble in the first place. The two women are in hospital, labouring against depression.

David Healy's jolly, complacent John Frick cannot comprehend why his wife should want to withdraw from the affluent style of living he has won for them, the nightly chat about stock

dealing, the trips to Arkansas after catfish. Nor can he understand as he paces the hospital waiting-room how the other husband, Leroy Hamilton (Peter Davison), can be earning his living as a carpenter when he is descended from Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers.

After enduring some minutes of awkward, but patronising questions —

excellently life-like, easy and conversational, like the dialogue throughout the play — Leroy snaps back with "Am I supposed to be ashamed I'm a carpenter?" Davison's voice frays with outrage against Healy's casual assumptions, against the assumptions of modern America, before he turns away, reluctant to continue a conflict he has no hope of winning.

The name of Alexander Hamilton means little to British audiences, but with what Miller tells us of Leroy's fondness for gentle joys — playing a banjo, admiring a sky — we can guess that his ancestor, of whom he disapproves, favoured the money-makers. In fact, he founded the National Bank and argued for capitalist overlordship, so that Miller is suggesting, though too subtly for audiences over here, that the flaws in American life have been present right from the start.

John's wife, Karen (Helen Burns) has become spiritually impoverished and, elegantly balancing this, Leroy's wife Pat (Margot Leicester) rages against her present economic poverty, hailing as she does from a family of Swedish immigrants fatally dedicated to material success. As Benedict Nightingale pointed out in his notice when David Thacker's finely paced production first opened, the effect of watching these troubled lives is far from dispiriting. Leicester's restlessly jittery Pat, the newcomer to the cast, overcomes her reluctance to encourage the crushed, tubby Karen to indulge her unexpected hobby, tap-dancing. Looking awkward, if brave, in her black silk hat and tails, Karen's dancing enrages her embarrassed husband, but it is infinitely touching. This attempt at fulfilment may fail, but it leads towards the sense of hope that is present when the play ends. In its plea to live in the now, acknowledging yet breaking free of a damaging past, this play is a short but potent coda to a lifetime of social concern.

JEREMY KINGSTON

They went down to the woods and lost it

Blue Remembered
Hills
Attic, Wimbledon

after-taste: best friends transform into bullies; games turn nasty; teasing a squirrel finishes with its death. Both childhood and the costly rustic West Country really do have their killers.

Potter's script, originally written for television, has some problems adapting to the stage. An apple gets hurled away, only to hit the backcloth, and the spread of the fire is represented by an all too obvious red spotlight. Still, Potter's original non-naturalistic casting is half-way to theatre and, actually, Patricia Doyle's direction shines when

she stops pretending there is a real mise-en-scène (mimes of grabbing branches) and abandons herself to stylising settings.

The forest and barn are established by the cast scribbling trees and a pitchfork on standing screens. Seven wooden chairs topple over to become junk in the barn; four, back to back, form a tree; a rank of them slammed down violently symbolises the locking of the barn door.

Inversely, in the details of characterisation, naturalism is crucial.

KATE BASSETT

SQUIRRELS were the pitiful terriers of the 1940s. They launch off trees and savage you and "once they get hold of you they never let go." At least that is what the seven-year-olds in the Forest of Dean say.

Dennis Potter's drama of seven children playing in the woods on a summer's day is concerned with, and ultimately concerned about, pretending. The comedy of their make-believe games and tall stories takes a sinister final twist. Having locked Donald in a barn where he is fatally trapped by the fire he starts, the children end up coldly concocting an alibi. This fiction, paradoxically, will be for real. They have stopped playing and that is one reason why Potter has these children acted by adults. At this moment, they lose their innocence.

Actually, Potter worries the notion of idyllic blue remembered hills throughout. This play is sweet and sour, each funny, endearing scene having a bitter

Bashing Beethoven

OAE/Schiff
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE poor old piano — and I mean old, not those new-fangled Steinway things — has had a tough time establishing itself in the hearts and minds of music lovers. The example played by Alexei Lubimov in Tuesday's concert given by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment told us why. Wisely it stayed unidentified. Whatever it was, its sound did not impress me — providing yet more powerful ammunition for those who are apt to dismiss Classical and early Romantic fortepianos as fit only for the pub.

Admittedly, Lubimov played Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto with the maximum possible contrasts of force. That is right for a Steinway, which can take a lot of brutal hammering and still sound beautiful, but surely wrong for this kind of instrument.

Interpretatively there was much to commend attention. Generally Lubimov opted for a dramatic, often over-mannered approach, with abrupt changes of tempo as well as dynamic and some perhaps over-affected articulation. This worked well for the middle movement's opposing poles, less well in the outer movements.

Lubimov had begun the whole work cautiously, so that the conductor,

Heinrich Schiff, was obliged to effect a none too subtle acceleration when the orchestra joined in. Moreover, the piano's repeated chords at the opening were strangely impassive, given without due regard to relative accentuation or changing colour; the OAE responded in like manner.

Without Lubimov's waywardness, Schiff and the OAE seemed almost indecently liberated in Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, whose first movement began at a rip-roaring pace. With a reading such as this, full of punch, even the most jaded critic can still relish the power of its invention, and especially its arresting orchestration, made newly vivid with the colours of period-style instruments.

One recalls the natural horns, squeaking out hand-stopped notes in the middle of the Scherzo's trio; or Janus Kessel's superb, explosive timpani playing; or the lovely, winsome oboe of Anthony Robson and the rich, firm double basses — an ideal anchor for one of the best string sections, period-style or not, in the country — in the Marcia funebre, which was a reflective, gentle stroll in the cemetery shade, rather than the usual depressed and tired plod to the grave.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Heart rules over head

RLPO/Pesek
Philharmonic Hall

IF LIBOR Pesek and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic felt at all uneasy about ending the season in the Philharmonic Hall with a complete performance of Smetana's *Ma Vlast* — the Czech national epic which they have most flatteringly been invited to perform at the opening concert of the Prague Spring Festival — they must have been reassured by the reaction of the audience. The conductor, who was recalled several times over, was clearly moved to find that the public still loves him even if his relationships with orchestra and management are not as happy as they used to be.

Those six tone-poems — *Vyšehrad*, *Vltava*, *Sarata*, *From Bohemia's Woods and Fields*, *Tabor and Blaník* — are not uniformly easy for a British audience to take. The first four are fine but *Tabor's* utopian obsession with the Hussite chorale does seem excessive in a Liverpool context. When the same insistent rhythms and melodic phrases return at the beginning of *Blaník* a change of subject is long overdue.

If this seems an inhospitable attitude, it must be said that the performance encouraged it. Wherever the trumpets were involved — and their

involvement in *Tabor* and *Blaník* is considerable — they dominated the texture, not so much by playing very much louder than the others as by cutting through them with an unpleasantly serrated edge.

According to the score, at the end of *Blaník* the noble theme of *Vyšehrad* returns on strings and woodwind in combination with the Hussite chorale on brass. According to the ear in the Philharmonic Hall, that triumphant moment was unbalanced too.

By this late stage it was not very surprising if Pesek had been primarily concerned with the quality of the sound he surely wouldn't have begun the evening by having the two harps playing in unison rather than in alternation, he would have integrated the first entry of the wind with the harps, and he would have made efforts to smooth away the rough edges which became evident in every department of the orchestra.

But if he had to choose between that kind of thing on the one hand and expensive spontaneity, lyrical passion, and patriotic fervour on the other hand, the reaction of the audience indicated that he made the right choice.

GERALD LARNER

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LONDON

LONDON PHILHARMONIC Three of the brightest women in British music learn up for the concert. Sir Edward Elgar, and the orchestra, the percussionist Evelyn Glennie and the pianist Joanna MacGregor in an "Alternative Vienna" concert that ranges from a Strauss waltz to H.K. Gruber's Rough Music.

PREVIEW The concert of viola is joined by soprano Catherine Bott for a performance of songs and pieces by Byrd and Purcell.

BALLET IMPERIAL Towards the tenth anniversary of the death of George Balanchine, Covent Garden is reviving Balanchine's last work, *Les Biches*, to enter the Royal Ballet repertoire. This revival will be performed in the original version which he created in America in 1941 and taught to the then Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1950.

IN THE STEPPES OF GENESIS The first major exhibition in Britain of art and artefacts from Mongolia, the show takes over all three floors of the gallery, turning them into a stage set evoking the feeling of travel in Mongolia. The main gallery contains contemporary paintings and photographs, while round and about there are examples of traditional crafts, silver objects and textiles, and a display of animal photographs recreating Mongolia at the turn of the century.

THE BEGGARS OPERA John Card's boisterous production, David Burt is the dashing highwayman. *Beggar's*, St. Paul's, 7.15pm, mats today, Sat. 2pm. 15mins.

THE BISHOP TELLERS Reviewing the tradition of English storytelling, the travelling company brings two programmes of parables, entertaining tales to the West End.

CITY OF ANGELS Top quality Larry Gubert's Coleman musical, packed with wit, set in L.A., and the world of the phony movie.

CRASH FOR YOU Thrillingly staged new version of the German musical *Crash*. Exceptional entertainment values.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC Robert Ascham's production, the reality of a challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full portraiture of the role.

THE DEEP BLUE SEA Penelope Walton the victim of unsatisfactory men in *Deep Blue Sea*, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world.

THE GIFT OF THE GOVERNOR Starring performance by Jack Dancin in *The Gift of the Governor*, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Maggie Smith commands the little world of lost handbags in this elegant revival.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Dillane's brilliant *Inspector Calls*, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

EUGENIO DITIBORNAVARI KELLY Dittobornavari is a Chilean who paints and photographs in oils. These are then folded, put in special envelopes and posted all over the world. Kelly, lost remembered for his Post-Form Document —

unwashed babies' nappies reflecting on motherhood — now turns her attention to men, their allegedly universal hysteria and lust for war, power and killing. The exhibition of his work is at the Royal Academy, 100 Piccadilly, 10am-6pm, 7.30pm (Tues to Sat).

REGIONAL

WORTHING The Seven Sisters of Worthing, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Porto, is the high point of English National Ballet's tour of the South. The place forms part of a mixed bill of short works.

GLASGOW Last productions of the spring season: *Old Rose* by Heinrich Heine, the show takes over all three floors of the gallery, turning them into a stage set evoking the feeling of travel in Mongolia. The main gallery contains contemporary paintings and photographs, while round and about there are examples of traditional crafts, silver objects and textiles, and a display of animal photographs recreating Mongolia at the turn of the century.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **Best of the week** *Crash* early

■ **Some seats available**

■ **Seats at all prices**

production of Priestley's soul-searcher *Middlemarch* (Olivier), South Bank, SE1, 7.15pm, 10.15pm, 12.15pm.

■ **THE INVISIBLE MAN** Not so cozy a venue as its title suggests in *Invisible Man*, the show is as good as over. First time in the West End.

■ **THE LAST YANKEE** Subtle and touching Arthur Miller production, Margot Leicester, Peter Davison lead a quartet of middle-aged Americans involved by marital confusion. First seen at the Young Vic.

■ **LIAM IN THE STREETS** Canada, specifically Toronto, as a single where the show is as good as over. First time in the West End.

■ **A LOVE SONG FOR ULLSTER** Bill Morrison's ambitious, strongly acted play, set in three periods of crisis between 1922 and today.

■ **MISSISSIPPI** Julie Wallace and Nigel La Vallée in *Mississippi*, a chilling production of Stephen King's thriller. *Mississippi*, South Bank, SE1, 7.15pm, 10.15pm, 12.15pm.

■ **ON THE PISTE** John Godbar's slight but amusing look at partner dancing in a downmarket club. *On the Piste*, South Bank, SE1, 7.15pm, 10.15pm, 12.15pm.

■ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** Maggie Smith commands the little world of lost handbags in this elegant revival.

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Dillane's brilliant *Inspector Calls*, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world, set in a futuristic world.

■ **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** The Last Yankee, Tel: 01-477 0111

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Neanderthal brains were as big as ours. Adam Zeman enjoys two books which explain why they became extinct

First of the noble savages

Their natural lives were brief and hard. For the Neanderthals (or Neandertals), life after fossilisation has been just as vexatious.

Even their naming was circuitous. A 17th-century organist, Joachim Neumann, followed the fashion of the times by translating his name into Greek, Neumann becoming "Neander". His audience remembered him by naming a green valley above the river Düssel the "Neander Thal". There, in 1856, a quarry foreman encountered the fossilised remains of an individual "more muscular than any normal human". Dr Fuhlrott, a schoolteacher, was summoned to inspect the bones. "To his everlasting credit he knew what they were," Fuhlrott's fossil met with a mixed reception. German scientists, sceptical about evolution, suggested that it was a malnourished Mongolian soldier, a relic of an army which had passed by 50 years before. T. H. Huxley poked fun at this attempt to represent the missing link as a "rickety bow-legged frowning Cossack". He was probably the author of the resounding anonymous description of the fossil as "the ruin of a solitary arch in an enormous bridge which time has destroyed and which may have connected the highest of animals with the lowest of man".

The subsequent debate over the

place of Neanderthal man in human evolution is the central subject of both these books. Was he a brutal offshoot from the human line, destined to extinction as modern man surpassed him, or is he our muscular and much-maligned ancestor?

These two books differ more in approach than in conclusion: Stringer and Gamble's is a despatch from the front line of current research, packed with measurement and marvellous illustrations; Trinkaus and Shipman have withdrawn a little way from combat to write an engaging history of the subject, explaining how the questions posed by the Neanderthal have changed over the years.

When the fossil in the Neander valley came to light, the long gestation of Darwin's evolutionary synthesis was nearing an end. This creature — who was not quite human, but near enough, and yet extinct — was bound to become a test case for the theory. Once Darwin's general case for evolution was won, interest shifted to the details of the human family tree implied by the fossil record. The fossils were scarce, their relation-

THE NEANDERTALS
Changing the Image of Mankind
By Erik Trinkaus
and Pat Shipman
Jonathan Cape, £20

IN SEARCH OF THE NEANDERTALS
By Christopher Stringer
and Clive Gamble
Thames & Hudson, £18.95



Corrèze Man: based on a skull found at Chapelle-aux-Saints

ships contentious, and theory ran well beyond established fact. Some, indeed, would say that the triumph of theory over evidence remains the hallmark of the field.

As the fossil count grew, and their description gained in precision, it became possible to glimpse the shadowy populations from which individual remains derived. This changed the questions once again: regardless of the question of their kinship, why were the Neanderthals thick-set and muscular with such prominent noses? These are as likely to have been adaptations to subglacial cold as the signs of a brutish nature. More

population which replaced them. This question belongs in a much wider context which lends it a compelling fascination.

Around five millions years ago two evolutionary lines diverged, one leading to man, the other to the modern ape. One million years ago Homo erectus spread across Europe and Asia from an African home. The great pitched battle of current paleoanthropology is being fought over what happened next.

"Multiregionalists" believe that Homo erectus evolved into modern man right across the inhabited world. Human racial variations accumulated over a million years, while reproduction between members of adjacent groups preserved the integrity of the species. The proponents of the rival theory of "replacement" hold there was a second diaspora from Africa around 100,000 years ago. The children of an "African Eve" replaced Homo erectus throughout his territory, later becoming the first hominids to colonise Australia and the Americas.

The debate is unavoidably emotive. Multiregionalism suggests a deep biological basis for racial

differences. On the replacement theory these differences are relatively recent elaborations of a single basic type. The fate of the Neanderthals hangs in this balance. They lived between 200,000 and 35,000 years ago in Europe and the Middle East. To the multiregionalists, they were the local torchbearers for humankind: my ancestors and probably yours. To the proponents of replacement, they were a side show, fated to extinction by the children of Eve.

Both these books favour versions of the replacement theory. Stringer and Gamble with evangelical zeal. Trinkaus and Shipman with sadness and qualifications. I share their sadness. The Neanderthal fossil suggests lives of awful hardship: survival beyond their mid-thirties was rare. But their achievements imply a close approach to man's estate. They mastered fire, cared for their sick, gave their dead burial, and may have worn clothes and ornaments. Their brains were no smaller than ours.

The order of their going is mysterious. It seems that they were unable to share in the "cultural explosion" around 50,000 years

ago that gave rise, among those who replaced them, to improvements in tools, settlements and burial in open country, more elaborate "planning and sharing", trade, art and global expansion. Stringer suggests that the Neanderthals belonged to the world of the "Ancients", hominids assisted by tools, and were replaced by "Moderns", hominids with behaviour organised symbolically. This is a fascinating hypothesis, discovering whether it is true will occupy many a Modern mind.

The improbability of early men achieving immortality as fossils has its poignant footnote: once found, the remains are forever getting lost. The "Taung baby" was left in a London taxi; the remains of Peking man disappeared in the confusion following Pearl Harbour. The "Shanidar" fossils may have been lost in the Allied bombardment of Baghdad.

These books offer splendid introductions to evolutionary thought and the prehistory of mankind. I particularly enjoyed Trinkaus and Shipman, who spell out the central principle of science — that the outcome cannot be known in advance — and show why it is so often ignored. But all these authors have been listening to the evidence that is "speaking, urgently and insistently, of our past". True to our kind, it speaks in many tongues.

El Dorado, or the lost world

For the last two decades of the 19th century an extraordinarily brave and rather mad English missionary called William Barbrooke Grubb wandered around the Chaco wilderness of western Paraguay, attempting (with limited success) to convert the Lengua Indians to Protestantism. In 1911, now safely back in Surrey, Grubb published his memoirs — a strange amalgam of professional piety and amateur anthropology. He called it *An Unknown People in an Unknown Land*.

The *Guardian's* literary editor Richard Gott has also spent more than two decades travelling through what he calls "the wastelands" of South America, across Paraguay, Bolivia and Brazil, and the results of this combined with impressive scholarly research, are contained in *Land Without Evil* — a compelling evocation of the region's turbulent history and a highly successful effort to bring this mysterious land into a clearer light.

The area around the Upper Paraguay River was once the magnet for legions of explorers, conquerors, colonists and men and women of letters. Here came the "Hidalgo Laird" Robert Cunningham Graham, Sir Richard Burton, Claude Lévi-Strauss and even Theodore Roosevelt. But before them came ranks of Spanish and Portuguese conquistadors, settlers from every European country, navigators, naturalists, slave hunters, the godly and the greedy.

They came, variously, to find souls for Christ, free labour, gold and enlightenment — the utopias of Gott's subtitle — and many left marvellous written accounts. It is from this huge, colourful and largely obscure bibliography that Gott reconstructs his *tachist* portrait of central South America. Less a travel book than a series of historical vignettes held together by geography rather than time, reading *Land Without Evil* is much like travelling on a South American steam train, jolting, moving backwards and forwards without warning, but richly satisfying.

The title is derived from an account by Alfred Métraux describing how the Guarani Indians would periodically set off on pilgrimages in search of a perfect Land Without Evil, "a place to which everyone yearns to go". Before the Europeans arrived the South American wilderness was, in some ways, just such a land, with abundant food and an easy-going, though periodically violent, way of life. The hammock, appropriately enough, was invented here.

Since the early 16th century, however, the Indians became prey to the utopias of others. The River Paraguay was the launchpad for repeated expeditions westwards in search of the imagined riches of El Dorado, the Inca empire, and the imperial conquest of the land was immediately followed by a genetic one. By 1545, just seven years after their arrival, a handful of Spanish settlers had produced 1500 mestizo children; by the 1570s there were just 250 Spaniards left, and around 10,000 mestizos — some the offspring of Indian "wives", many the products of rape and concubinage.

Then came the Jesuits, collecting

the Indians into "Reducciones", where they were reduced from savagery to salvation in one of the most remarkable utopian experiments of all. The Jesuit missions of central South America appear in stark contrast to the rest of South American history, providing religion, sculpture, music, systematic agriculture and much more all under the mantle of paternalist religion. "It was not paradise on earth," Gott observed, "but it was a pretty impressive achievement in the circumstances of a South American swamp." The Jesuits were expelled in 1767.

Gott tells the early history of the region with gusto and wit, but this is finally, and intentionally, a mournful book. What the conquistadors began, disease, famine, war and finally modern life have finished off. In the two centuries after 1530, the Indian populations touched by the intruders were reduced to a tenth of their original size, and the 19th-century independent governments proved, if anything, still more

mercilessly efficient in wiping out the Indians. Gott's requiem for the Indian tribes — the Guaycurus of the Chaco, the Guarani, the Chiriguano, the Mojos, the war-like Payaguas — is poignant but never mawkish. Like the Cherokee or Navajo they have "all but disappeared", save for the occasional street sign, some linguistic remnants and a few squalid reservations.

If the polyglot explorers, adventurers and writers who washed up in the middle of South America shared anything, it was a casual brutality and deep arrogance towards the people who were already there. Martin Dobrizhoffer, the Jesuit chronicler, found them "more like beasts than men"; C. B. Mansfield, an upper class wanderer and travel writer who visited Paraguay in 1852, called them "miserable looking creatures". Even good old Barbrooke Grubb made it a rule "to assume at all times and under all circumstances superiority and authority" — which may explain why the Lengua periodically tried to kill him.

When the Portuguese explorer Aleixo Garcia first voyaged up the River Paraguay in 1524 and struck out west (reaching the Inca empire more than a decade before Pizarro) he came across numerous robust and self-sufficient peoples. Having killed and robbed them to sufficiency, he set off for home, only to be robbed and killed himself by his Indian allies. This was to become a familiar pattern. Some well meaning individuals sought to document and otherwise preserve the indigenous cultures. Most, with guns or bibles simply wrecked them.

In 1739, the author of *The Present State of All Nations* observed that "Paraguay proper is a perfect terra incognita". Despite his obvious admiration for the Jesuits and a few others, Gott plainly wishes it had stayed that way.

Despite the wars and expeditions, the epic struggles for physical and spiritual dominion that have characterised the region and are here graphically retold, this is still one of the least understood parts of the world. But this book achieves an end which none of its predecessors would have contemplated, by establishing a genuine, if necessary faint voice for the once great Indian nations which battled over this land long before the Europeans arrived. "A memory of them," Gott observes, "deserves to be resurrected." He has written one.

Ben Macintyre is the author of *Forgotten Fatherland: The Search for Elisabeth Nietzsche* (Macmillan).

Ben Macintyre

LAND WITHOUT EVIL

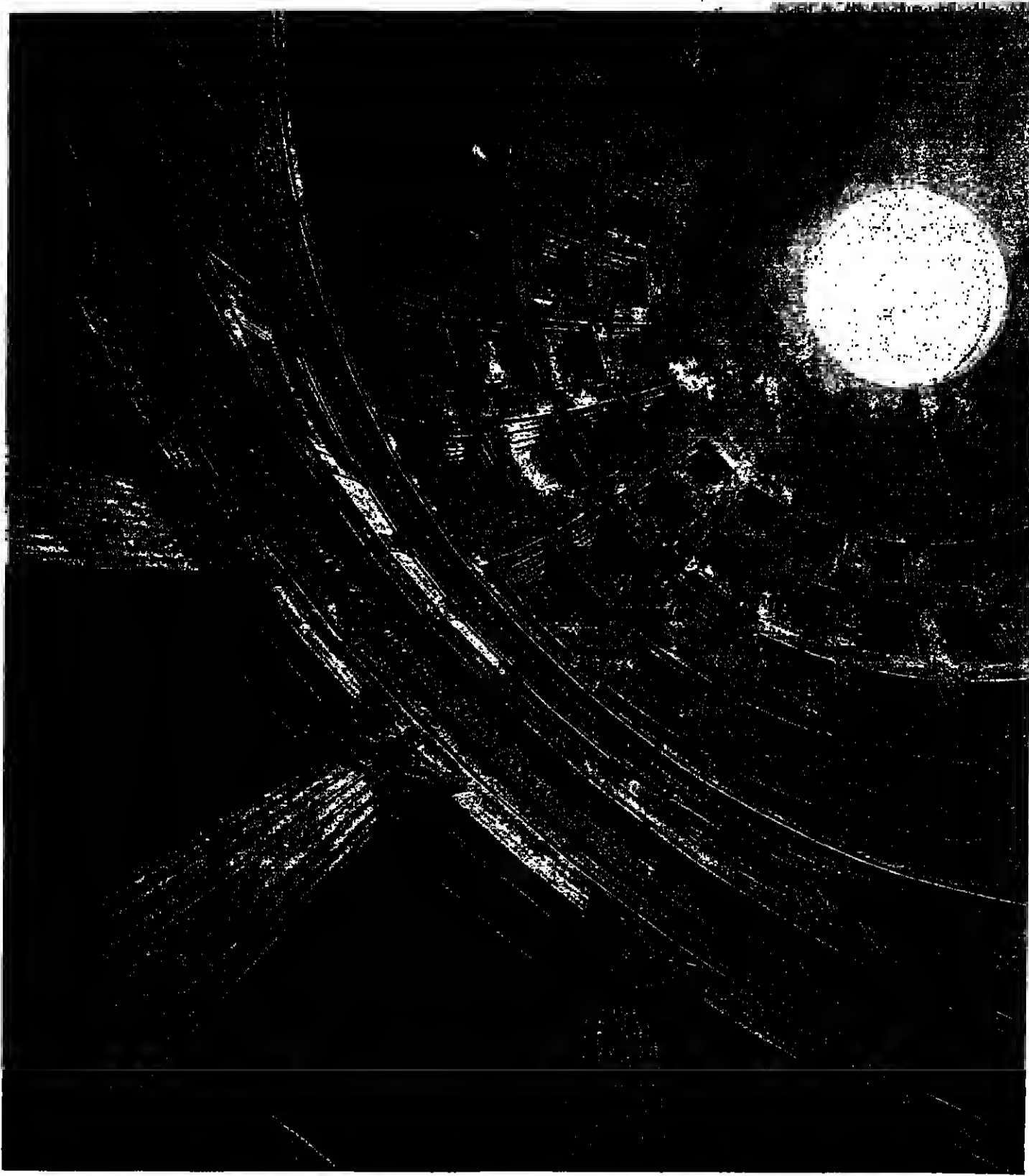
Utopian Journeys

Across the South

American Watershed

By Richard Gott

Verso, £18.95



The coffered interior of the Pantheon, Rome: its vast dome was built of concrete and brick in AD 118-128, a century after Caesar. This picture is taken from *Brickwork: Architecture and Design* by Andrew Plumridge and Wim Meulenkaamp (Cassell, £25)

Snuff, cigars and syphilis

The "noble savage" of the old Caribbean had a fairly good 1992. A big film presented his suffering at the hands of Columbus. Kirkpatrick Sale in his *Conquest of Paradise* described his methods of agriculture and how they were destroyed by the conquistadors. What has been lacking has been a good up to date work on who the people of the Caribbean were in 1492, and why there are no more of them. The lack has now been filled by Irving Rouse, the doyen of studies of these things at Yale.

The book is completely satisfactory up to a certain point. Professor Rouse writes clearly and with economy. His book is beautifully produced, with many informative illustrations. Rouse tells us that the people concerned, the Tainos, came originally to the main islands of Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico from South America. He says that they pushed out a small group who were there before, and who were practically extinct by 1492, though the Spanish caught glimpses of them in west Cuba.

The Tainos were being pressed in the east by the Caribs, who were moving up the Windward and Leeward islands in a way which might have led to their domination of the Antilles if the Europeans had held off for a century or two. Rouse confirms the judgments of Columbus and others that the Tainos were peaceful, had a sophisticated agriculture based on cassava and sweet potatoes which, with fruit, some maize, and a great deal of fishing, did more than fulfil their needs.

The Tainos smoked cigars, apparently for pleasure, and had snuff, but seem to have had no

alcohol of any kind. They had ball games of complexity. They had pottery, and painted it. They painted themselves too, for ceremonies and for war. They wore little but the men had cotton covering for their private parts, while women wore short skirts. They traded, and travelled by sea a lot, unlike modern inhabitants of the West Indies, as Rouse dryly points out, in excellent canoes using paddles. These canoes seem to have been superior to those used by the otherwise more advanced Mayas on the mainland.

Their mild and somewhat uninteresting religion was studied by a priest who arrived on Columbus's second voyage, Father Ramon Pané. Their political arrangements seem enlightened. Women as well as men could serve as chiefs, the chiefs' responsibilities included the organisation of singing and dancing, and was on a village basis. They were fairly free of disease, but they probably did have syphilis.

Where Rouse is less satisfactory is about what happened to these people. For there are no Tainos left, even if there are a few Caribs in Dominica. Where did they go?

The answer must depend on how many *naturales*, as the Spanish call them, there were in the first place. Here the speculation and guessing is quite out of hand, as it has been ever since the 16th century. Take Hispaniola. All that we know for certain is that by about 1525 there were no Tainos: the Spaniards had begun to import black slaves from Africa to do the hard work.

The size of the demographic catastrophe implicit in this disappearance depends on what the population was in 1492. Bartolomé de las Casas gave numerous figures in the course of his half century of inspired propagandising on behalf of the American indigenous peoples, including a figure of eight million for Hispaniola alone. Woodrow Borah, another doyen of American history, in demographic studies, very surprisingly, committed himself to the same figure a few years ago, after many impressive mathematical calculations.

Yet Charles Verdelin, the Belgian historian, has argued that in 1492 there may have been about only 55,000 or 65,000 Tainos in Hispaniola. A methodical Argentine demographer years ago, Angel Rosenblatt, thought the figure

might have been 100,000. More recently, Luis Arranz in Spain has a slightly higher estimate, having worked on details of a division of the surviving Indians to certain conquistadors in 1513.

The Verdelin-Rosenblatt-Arranz calculations must be nearer the truth than those of Las Casas, Borah. This admission accepts that there was a demographic tragedy, but of a quite different scale to that denounced by Las Casas, and implicit in Borah.

It is disappointing that Rouse has not given any judgment of his own on the question, nor really on what happened in the islands in the first generation after the Spanish conquest. The conquistadors were often brutal, but there were degrees of brutality. Governor Velázquez of Cuba was relaxed. Ovando, the first serious Spanish governor in Hispaniola, a serious administrator, Garay in Jamaica benign. The Indians died, not because of disease, but from overwork, loss of identity and shortage of traditional food, caused by Castilian imports of cattle and pigs. Also some intermarriage, so that several *criollo* Cuban families had Indian blood.

What is now necessary is a study which combines the anthropological and archaeological expertise of Rouse with the command of Spanish sources of an Arranz or a Pérez de Tudela, author of a famous study of Hispaniola under Spain in the late 1490s and early 1500s, which does not appear in Rouse's bibliography.

Hugh Thomas (Lord Thomas of Stymington) is the author of many books on Spanish and Latin American history.

Would it were fatter!

The Brutuses did not need Allan Massie's delightful new novel to establish their place in English fiction. When your family is descended from the legendary Brute, founder of the British race as related by Geoffrey of Monmouth, and when it has won the starring role for the Marcus Junius branch in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, still playing all over the world, this week's publication of young Decimus Brutus's memoirs is perhaps a small matter.

This book should be welcomed, however, both by any British survivors of the illustrious Roman clan

Peter Stothard

CAESAR

By Allan Massie

Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99

and by the probably rather greater number here who have enjoyed Massie's finely attuned writings over the years. *Caesar* — just as the dictator gets the title part in what is really Shakespeare's play about Brutus, so he gets it now — is an intimate account of how the friends and allies of the first divine Julius became his assassins.

This story, told with the wit and moral perspicacity of which Massie is a minor master, is one of those tales that can be reinterpreted for any time. The new version has a hint of the plots against Hitler, John F. Kennedy and even Margaret Thatcher. "I have heard Caesar deny the very existence of society," says the narrator, "Precisely," replies Cicero. "I have talked to you before now of the threat which I choose to call individualism."

The historical figure of Decimus Brutus was a cousin of Marcus and, of all the conspirators, the one whom Caesar had the best reason to trust. He had won naval victories for his master and, as the novelist sees things, had suffered little more from him than a lack of recognition for his contribution to history — the classic apparatus of the lament. It is thus Decimus Brutus to whom the assassins give the job of reassuring the dictator that his wife's bad dreams were, in fact, harmless reminders of how much Romans relied on their leader for strength. After some finely-observed encounters with doubt, Decimus does his duty to republican freedoms and joins the band who plunge the dagger into Caesar and their empire into civil war.

After the Ides of March Decimus Brutus's career is on as fast a downward path as it was rising before. The happy days of Gallic rape and throat-cutting, temporarily replaced by idle debauchery in Rome, turn into a life on the run and the eventual offer of a jewelled dagger by his Gallic captor, acting on the orders of Caesar's heirs. It was considered in antiquity that Decimus Brutus did not do the decent thing by killing himself. But Massie kindly leaves open the possibility that his narrator, and semi-hero, might have done the heroic deed without outside help. "There is something in the barbarian soul which responds nobly to nobility," he opines, the nearly perfect Roman to the end.

Peter Stothard became Editor of The Times eight months ago.

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Journals of the plague years

In America, Dale Peck's first novel is modestly entitled *Martin & John*. Not over here. How sad that so crude and attention-seeking a title should have been smeared by Chatto & Windus on the cover of so fine a work, with the result that the novel will almost certainly be more talked about than read. Not only that, but if read, then held at arm's length for fear that Peck's prose should turn out to be as brutish, grotty and spit-in-your-face as his title.

In fact, Peck's prose is immaculate: he writes as Aubrey Beardsley drew. Viewed in close-up, his sentences have the cool, stylised rightness of fresh-cut tulips, so smooth and streamlined that they almost seem artificial. Step back a

Michael Wright

FUCKING MARTIN
By Dale Peck
Chatto & Windus, £9.99 pbk
original

SCAR TISSUE
By Michael Ignatieff
Chatto & Windus, £9.99 pbk
original

few paces and the big picture is revealed: a heat-haze field blazing with fierce colours. The apparent addressness with which Peck's first-person narrator dreams up variations on the theme of sex and death — beeping them one on top of another like glistening cadavers or guests at orgies — is splendidly at odds with the chiselled meticulousness of his expressions.

So while John drifts and meanders from pain to pain and story to story in attempting to come to terms with his parents, with his homosexuality and with Martin (not necessarily separately, and not necessarily in that order), his long arabesque paragraphs come to rest in cadences that close with the swishing, satisfying chunk of expensive car-doors.

John is revealed as Peck's alter ego, endlessly reworking the same story as he attempts to dispel the nightmare visions and imaginings thrown up by watching his lover, Martin, dying of AIDS. The conflict between beauty and ugliness, between sex as life-affirming and death-binding, is what sustains momentum. There are shades of Oedipus-gone-haywire here, and echoes of Hamlet, too, in John's tortuous and sexually-charged relationship with his parents.

Peck has shaken liberal doses of Freud and Jung into the stew of sex and death which he stirs so magnificently. Images of drowning and drought, of paralysed hands and tooth-scarred faces pop up like eerily recognisable body parts floating to the surface of a cannibal's cauldron. Really good first novels tend to be glibly squashed as merely "promising". Peck has very much arrived with his. I hope he sticks around.

Michael Ignatieff's second novel *Scar Tissue* is also published as a parchment-coloured paperback original. The book starts similarly, too, before hurtling off in a rather different, but equally rewarding, direction. Where Peck's narrative is quicksilver and organic — floating along in a molten, poetic flow disguised beneath the crust as smooth, hard prose — Ignatieff is prosaic almost to the core. His narrator describes the slow and painful development of his mother's premature senility with a combination of scientific accuracy and child-like terror.

Gradually, Ignatieff's finely-tuned case-study is twisted into something more resonant and searching than merely a portrait of an illness. The narrator begins to explore the relationship between memory and selfhood, recognising to his horror that his mother has a fine stack of memories and no idea of what to do with them, to whom they relate, or whence they came.

It is her sense of identity, and with it her ability to make connections, that has been shot to pieces by her senility. The signifier is wrenched away from the signified, until his mother appears to be living in a world full of signs without points of reference. And the illness is hereditary, so that the narrative itself has disease built into it: the writer's prose is just waiting to be decomposed.

Far from being sensational or undone by too much clever self-referentiality, Ignatieff's novel impresses in its wisdom as much as in its restraint. The author writes with sufficient grace and imaginative power to dispel the slightly clinical whiff of hospitals that hangs over his narrative. Thus, where Peck's chiming, metallic style is necessary to hold his oozy narrative in check, here it is the warmth and elegance of Ignatieff's handling of language that prevents the novel from seeming brittle. Intensity is not achieved at the expense of integrity. Far from being merely an efficient book written by a clever man, this is a rich novel written by a magnificent writer with an exquisite talent for naturalism.

Books about death and disease are not everybody's favourite. Here the publishers have pulled off an unexpectedly enjoyable double.



"Cigar, sir?" George Brown at lunch with mining officials at Bretby, near Derby, in 1964: his ebullient style was not enough to persuade unions and management to accept Labour's National Plan

Woodrow Wyatt was fond of George Brown. Here he praises a life of this least statesmanlike of leaders

Partying before politics

TIED AND EMOTIONAL
The Life of Lord George Brown
By Peter Paterson
Chatto & Windus, £20

On the Friday morning after the first ballot in the Labour leadership contest following Hugh Gaitskill's death in 1963, I had a drink with George Brown in the House of Commons smoking room. Gloomily he accepted he wasn't far enough ahead of Wilson to win the second ballot.

"Why do you think it went wrong?" said George Brown asked. "You must face it. It's because you're so dreadfully rude to people when you're drunk." "What makes them think I'm rude to them just because I'm drunk?" When the second ballot confirmed Wilson as leader, George disappeared in a sulk and could not be traced for days. Before the first ballot George Wigg (later Lord Wigg), Wilson's campaign manager, offered me the bribe of a good job in the next government if I supported Wilson. I replied: "I'd rather have George Brown drunk than Wilson sober."

In 1964, when Labour won narrowly, George Brown as prime minister would have been exciting,

not to say sensational. I think we could have controlled the drink problem by having a minder always by him to take his glass away. I might have volunteered. He had a very low alcohol threshold: a modest intake turned sane brilliance into embarrassing lunacy. At dinner at my house while foreign secretary, he sat next to Edwina d'Erlanger, once a considerable beauty and then still good looking. He talked to her briefly and drunkenly. Then he shouted, "Shut up, you old bag. I've talked to you long enough. Now I'm going to talk to this pretty girl on my other side." Dinner ended with George on his back, waving his legs until he could no longer move them.

The authentic George, a blustering but able administrator, stalks these pages. There is a wonderful description of how he got the Tower

of London to open on Sundays when briefly Minister of Works in 1951. It was a notion first mooted in 1912 but blocked by successive Constables of the Tower until George arrived. Military considerations, a rest day for the troops, peace for the residents, every bureaucratic argument was advanced. George ignored the advice of his civil servants to leave well alone. He plunged in, enlisting George VI on his side, to whom even the Constable of the Tower had to bow.

particularly on the matter of seeing the Crown Jewels, which were said to be impossible to guard on a Sunday. From March well into October the "experiment" of Sunday opening continues to this day with tremendous, paying attendance. George had himself photographed at the Tower on the first Sunday to prove he had done it. George had a chip a mile high about intellectuals. Having left school at 15, he envied the superiority of Hugh Gaitskill, Dick Crossman, Tony Crosland and Roy Jenkins. Repeatedly I would tell George that they all genuinely thought him more brilliant than themselves in argument and in illuminating vital points. Unhappily he was never persuaded.

I must take issue with the author's belief that the emergence of the extreme left-wing Frank

Cousins brought a "glitter of democracy" to the unions. Also with his assertion that Hugh Gaitskill, who showered affection on friends and supporters, was "not much inclined to warmth".

Minor imperfections apart, the author's accuracy is remarkable. The account of the famous dinner given by Labour's National Executive for Khrushchev and Bulganin has never been bettered. Khrushchev accused Britain of throwing "bloodthirsty Germans at the throat of the nice Russians", at which point Khrushchev saw George was muttering something and asked if he was afraid to repeat it aloud. George stoutly said: "May God forgive you." He explained that if Moscow had not signed the treaty with Hitler, we would not have been alone fighting Hitler for a year before Russia got started.

There was pandemonium, with Nye Bevan advancing on Khrushchev wagging his finger, causing Khrushchev later to declare that if he were British he would vote Conservative.

George's outrageous behaviour was laughed at and excused by the public, for whom he was the most popular and inspired Labour leader in my lifetime. I think Peter Paterson set out to defend George Brown, but truth made this impossible. His appalling behaviour to his wife, who sweated blood dedicating her troubled life to him, and to the mistress he spurned her for in his decay; his sudden swerves from loyalty to treachery; his horrible humiliation of those who could not answer back, were beyond excuse.

Yet he was deeply religious, with a solid knowledge of the Bible, converting to Roman Catholicism on his lonely debt-ridden deathbed. For all his faults I can still see his welcoming smile and love him. Peter Paterson has achieved an outstanding biography which will be a valuable part of our history.

Little power and less glory

Pope Paul VI is commonly remembered as the author of *Humanae Vitae*, the 1968 encyclical which confirmed the traditional teaching of the Catholic Church that artificial birth control was morally wrong. The outrage this inspired is still felt today. To non-Catholics it seemed to sully sex. To liberal Catholics it was a betrayal of the Second Vatican Council, which had sanctified sex as an expression of conjugal love, and had suggested a "collegial" approach to church government. It

Piers Paul Read

PAUL VI
The First Modern Pope
By Peter Hebblethwaite
HarperCollins, £35

was widely ignored, dismissed in some quarters as "the private theological opinion of the bishop of Rome". "Don't be afraid," Paul told Edouard Gagnon, "in 20 years time they'll call me a prophet." Twenty-five years later, many do.

Giovanni Battista Montini was born in 1897 near Brescia in northern Italy where his father, Giorgio, was the editor of a Catholic newspaper. He trained as a priest in Rome, and after his ordination became chaplain to the association of Catholic students. In fascist Italy, this was a post of great political sensitivity which he handled well. He was spotted as a curial high flyer and moved in 1933 to the Papal Secretariat of State. "Monsignor Montini," wrote Pius XI, "has gifts destined to permit him to render services to the Church on a much higher level."

Always liberal minded — dangerously liberal to some of the curial cardinals — Montini came into his own after the war, when some of his former protégés in the Catholic student movement, including Aldo Moro and Giulio Andreotti, emerged from hiding to launch the Christian Democrat movement. Montini was not just a skilful diplomat; he was also a discerning intellectual, who read the work of advanced French theologians like



Pontifex maximus: Pope Paul VI wearing the triple crown

Maritain and the novels of Greene, including *The Power and the Glory*, which Cardinal Pizzardo had placed on the Index.

In 1954 he was made archbishop of Milan, and nine years later succeeded John XXIII as Pope. Although opposed by a conservative faction in the consistory, he was the obvious man for the job: demonstrably pious, an efficient and experienced ecclesiastical statesman and far more "open" to

the world than John XXIII. As Hebblethwaite tells us, "He makes dear old jug-eared Roncalli... look narrow, frowzy, lacking in taste and distinctly old-fashioned."

Why, then, did it all end in tears? Mario Rossi, a one-time leader of the Catholic students who was an admirer of Montini, ascribes his troubles to "a failure to understand the ordinary world, a remoteness from everyday life..." These were things a spell as an ordinary parish

priest might have taught him. He was always determined to see the best in everyone, and therefore failed until it was almost too late to see the "smoke from Satan rising up within the Church".

Peter Hebblethwaite's biography is an impressive work of scholarship, and suffers only from an ambivalent attitude towards his subject — inevitably so because Hebblethwaite, like John Harriott to whom he dedicates his book, was once a Jesuit. He left the order after Vatican II, took a wife, and has earned his living in recent years as a sometimes tendentious commentator on Vatican affairs.

All the churchmen who caused Paul VI so much anguish — Cardinal Suenens, Karl Rahner and the Jesuit General Pedro Arrupe — are Hebblethwaite's heroes. As a result, he gives us a tragedy without drama. In *Malachi Martin's The Jesuits* there are powerful passages describing Paul VI's fruitless plea for support from the Jesuits, whose founder, St Ignatius Loyola, placed his order at the service of the Papacy. Hebblethwaite's book virtually ignores the treachery of his former companions. He suggests that Arrupe was a very nice fellow, who did not believe "that leaving the Society of Jesus was the end of the world or the end of all ministry..." He never used the Roman language of "defections" and stayed friends with those who departed — like Peter Hebblethwaite, perhaps, but not with those who stayed, like poor Paul VI.

This special pleading does not detract from Hebblethwaite's achievement. There is more than enough in these 700-odd pages for the reader to make up his own mind about Paul VI. To some he will remain the dithering author of *Humanae Vitae*. To others, he will emerge as a man of many sorrows but ultimate joy. There is only one sadness," wrote Georges Bernanos in *Saint Dominique*, a copy of which Paul VI treasured in his library. "Not to be a saint."

Piers Paul Read's *Ablaze: The story of Chernobyl* will be published later this month.

She nourished all the world

Elisabeth Furse claims that the journalist Milton Shulman once stormed through her Belgrave bistro shouting: "Why oh why is she so unself-conscious?" The actress Sarah Churchill would come straight from the pub and, faced with the often abjectly drunk door, would shout: "You bloody Russian woman, you will let me in." Mrs Furse has written, with expert help, a rather grave and thrilling autobiography.

Furse in her late teens became a communist after a lonely

Lesley Chamberlain
DREAM WEAVER
By Elisabeth Furse
and Anne Barr
Chapmans, £16.99

was an American expatriate in occupied France and finally worked courageously for the British in the Vichy south. Her eldest son by her second husband, the journalist Anthony Haden-Guest, dodges across enemy lines, drugged by his mother and guided on reins.

Determined not to lose interest in the world, she finally alone after 14 pregnancies, five children, three husbands, and some interesting-sounding lovers. Furse at 81 most recently tottered off to Maastricht, with a crutch, a shopping trolley, and a press card. She has been to Moscow, terrified her publishing friends by loose-cannoning at the Frankfurt Book Fair, and saw the Berlin Wall come down.

Sixty years earlier, her early adult life ended there when German communism collapsed in a mess of betrayal and she lost friends to the Stalinist purges. She was born in the Baltic port of Königsberg. Jewish, she lost relatives in Majdanek and Auschwitz; her favourite cousin committed suicide in Gdansk to escape the Nazis.

Given this extraordinary fate, a willingness to court danger, and to stretch her resources to fit often

strained circumstances, Furse could not help becoming a character. She judged strangers swiftly, fell in love easily, and could act any part life required of her to survive; out of an enormous sense of self-reliance, she justified all her actions. This book exudes the pathos that often surfaces in intensely active lives when at last those who live them stop and take stock.

When life demobbed Furse and propelled her to Britain, she used her extraordinary "amoral moral" qualities to bring up the five children of her third marriage on a pittance, and create the bistro whose named customers — bistrotiers — read like an index to two decades of social and intellectual gossip columns. She

craved creative talk, argument, wit, and found it in journalists, politicians, diplomats, models, socialites. David Owen has been a staunch friend ever since he first came alone to the off-beat café in Bourne Street near Sloane Square to read newspapers. The soup was made of leftovers, customers brought their own booze, regulations were flouted, and Elisabeth and her guests seemed to thrive.

Not so her husband Pat, a quieter soul, who left and remarried, and her children, who became all but alienated. Her son Johnny makes some pertinent psychological speculations about his mother: hungry for attention, quick to meddle and condemn. One problem was her readiness to give more attention to strangers than to her children. She admits that early communist experience left her craving comrades.

Her politics have to come to rest rightish of centre, with a particular loathing reserved for the soft option welfare state, and a predilection for near-poverty as the most interesting way to live. Looking back, she is sad to be alone. "Mother Courage," observed a catty female bistrotier. She should take it as a compliment.

Taylor sticks with tired and trusted for crucial Cup ties

By Keith Pike

IT REMAINS harder to break out of the England football squad than it is to break into it. Whether it is regarded as stubbornness or loyalty, Graham Taylor will rely on the tired and trusted for the two games within five days which could make or break their World Cup campaign.

The England manager, who yesterday announced a squad of 25 for the group four matches in Poland on May 29 and Norway on June 2, resisted the temptation to either experiment with or add match-winning experience to the team that led a 2-0 lead — and possibly its chances of qualification — against Holland at Wembley last month.

It means no Anderton, Beresford or Filicoff, and yet again no Chris Waddle.

Nor was Taylor prepared to offer his reasons, refusing to take issue with those who recently voted the Sheffield Wednesday winger their player of the year. "This is my squad, it's as simple as that," he said.

Two days after returning from Norway, 22 of the 25 will fly out again to the United States for the three-match US Cup '93 tournament. David Seaman will not be among them, the Arsenal goalkeeper having a long-standing appointment with a specialist for a double hernia operation. More surprisingly, nor will John Barnes.

After the two World Cup matches, the Liverpool captain, troubled by a succession of injuries for the past two years, will instead undertake an extensive "conditioning course" to ensure he is fit for the start of next season. "It will be of more benefit to him, to Liverpool and to England to make sure he does not break down again," Taylor, with one eye on the return match against Poland at Wembley on September 8, said. He has

not, he stressed, given Barnes any assurances about his place in future England squads. "It is a gamble, but one I think he is right to take."

But even if Taylor's argument, that he cannot accommodate Barnes and Waddle in the same squad, let alone the same side, is accepted, it seems strange that Waddle's name does not appear on Taylor's list of five stand-by players when he knows Barnes will not be with him in the States.

Having previously insisted that Waddle was among the "30 or so" players uppermost in his mind, surely Taylor has now finally closed the door on

again, on the fitness or otherwise of Paul Gascoigne.

Gascoigne, who needed an operation after suffering a fractured cheekbone during the match against Holland, was scheduled to have the stitches removed yesterday and return to Italy today, but he is likely to have played only once for Lazio before England's game in Poland.

Taylor has also selected Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, and Tony Dorigo, the Leeds United defender, in his squad, although neither is presently fit. Wright resumed training only on Tuesday after breaking a toe, but is confident of appearing in the FA Cup final against Sheffield Wednesday on May 15; Dorigo is likely to return for Leeds' game against Coventry City on Saturday. Should either suffer a setback, Paul Warhurst and Earl Barrett would be favourites to be promoted from the stand-by list.

That list also includes Trevor Steven, of Rangers. He will play against Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup final on the day England play Poland, unless Taylor is afflicted by an unexpectedly heavy toll of injuries between now and then. Bemoaning again the excessive demands on his leading players, Taylor is not discounting the possibility of having to invoke the FIFA six-day rule to get Steven's release.

Although Taylor forsook the opportunity to take a closer look at the potential of players like Filicoff, of Manchester City, Beresford, of Newcastle United, or Anderton, of the latter's Tottenham Hotspur team-mate, Teddy Sheringham, keeps his place in the squad, as does Martin Keown, who received a late call-up to face the Dutch. The only uncapped player is Tim Flowers, of Southampton, who will provide goalkeeping cover for Woods and Martyn in the States.

ENGLAND SQUAD

G. Woods (Sheffield Wednesday), O. Seaman (Arsenal), N. Martyn (Crystal Palace), T. Flowers (Southampton), D. Bardsley (Queens Park Rangers), A. Dorigo (Leeds United), N. Winstanley (Aston Villa), O. Walker (Sheff Wed), M. Keown (Arsenal), A. Adams (Aston Villa), G. Pallister (Sheff Wed), P. Merson (Arsenal), A. Smith (Queens Park Rangers), L. Shaper (Sheff Wed), E. Beresford (Newcastle), J. Barnes (Liverpool), P. Warhurst (Sheff Wed), I. Wright (Arsenal), L. Ferdinand (Queens Park Rangers), T. Steven (Rangers), T. Dorigo (Leeds), R. Barrett (Sheff Wed), P. Warhurst (Sheff Wed).

Waddle's England career. By the time they arrive in the States, for matches against the hosts on June 9 in Boston, Brazil (June 13 in Washington) and Germany (June 19 in Detroit), England may have already blown their chances of returning there for the World Cup finals the following year.

Having already dropped home points to the group leaders, Norway, and Holland, and with a visit to the Dutch still to come in October, they will struggle to finish in the top two unless they can prise three points out of the matches in Katowice and Oslo. Much may depend, yet



Gazing into the future: Keegan is looking for his team from Tyneside to dominate the game as his former club, Liverpool, once did

Keegan confronted by greatest challenge

Louise Taylor looks at how Newcastle United and their articulate manager, Kevin Keegan, will fare in the cauldron of the Premier League

SEATS in the top tier of Newcastle United's handsome Milburn Stand afford a panoramic, bird's-eye view across the city. Regular occupants cherish the hope that soon they will also be looking down on the rest of the Premier League from their perches at St James' Park.

Immense satisfaction has been drawn from the experience of this season when the first division has gazed up at Kevin Keegan's team, which secured the championship that always seemed inevitable at Grimsby on Tuesday night.

Winning the Premier League will not be so straightforward. Newcastle have not claimed domestic football's premier prize since 1927 and, although the United supporters idolise him, the jury is still out on Kevin Keegan as a manager. Prodding a sleeping giant into life is one thing, keeping it awake another.

Keegan would delight in proving the doubters wrong in

the same way he confounded cynics by staying off relegation to the third division after succeeding Osie Ardiles in February 1992.

Sceptics said that Sir John Hall, Newcastle's millionaire chairman, was naive to appoint him. Although Keegan temporarily walked out after being refused cash for players, Sir John played his cards to perfection. So well that Keegan not only returned but installed his wife, daughters and horses on Sir John's country estate in County Durham.

Whispers that it would end in tears intensified when Mick Quinn, now with Coventry City, publicly labelled Keegan's training methods as stambolic.

Sir John also dipped into his pocket and guaranteed loans enabling Keegan to pay £1.75 million for Andy Cole from Bristol City, the striker repaying him with eight goals in nine games. Probably the best investment though was £750,000 spent on the Robert Lee, the Charlton forward. Less spectacular individuals such as Barry Venison and John Bursford are solid full backs but, between them, central defence looks suspect, for all Lee Howey's promise.

Hall, however, has pledged further funds, insisting: "We don't want to be like Sunderland and Middlesbrough to go up only to come down."

But with the original debt reduced by only £1.5 million, the ground being redeveloped and hefty interest payments owing on loans, the minimum £1.3 million guaranteed by Premier League membership will ease rather than erase the overdraft.

Sir John's solution is to charge supporters £3,000 for a 99-year lease on 1,500 seats in the Milburn Stand, with the additional cost of a season ticket still to be paid annually. This so-called platinum club has alienated regulars, who point out that they cheered Newcastle through years of failure only to be priced out by corporate hospitality at the first glimmer of success.

Undaunted, Hall talks of being part of a European super league in the next decade. He probably has no choice, his ambitious financial equation being based on the premise that Newcastle keep winning.

It is an extraordinary burden for any manager but, driven by a fierce pride, Keegan is an exceptional man. As a former student of Bill Shankly at Liverpool, he will not consider himself a true success until Tyneside dominates British football in the way Merseyside once did.

Sheffield close to ensuring survival

By Our Sports Staff

THE great escape artists did it again on Tuesday night: Sheffield United almost certainly pulled away from relegation with a 2-0 victory at Everton, maintaining, in the process, their enviable record of brinkmanship at the bottom of the Premier League and, before that, the first division.

Only an extraordinary turnaround can pull United back into the bottom three — with Oldham needing to win their last two games of the season by wide margins — and Dave Bassett, the Sheffield manager, could afford a relieved smile after his side's success at Goodison Park.

"We are 99 per cent of the way there," he said. "It's now down to Oldham to win two games by a considerable amount of goals and hope we concede a few. We were a bit deflated when Oldham got a great result at Villa, but now the pressure is back on them." Goals from Carl Bradshaw and Glyn Hodges, scoring from the rebound after Neville Southall had saved his penalty, earned the points for United.

While Newcastle United were celebrating their first division championship, Sun-

derland, their near-neighbours and closest rivals, were still sweating on their own survival. Beaten 2-1 at Tranmere Rovers, Sunderland also had their captain, Kevin Ball, sent off in the last minute for a foul on Pat Nevin.

In the second division, Bolton Wanderers overtook Port Vale to claim an automatic promotion spot with a 1-0 victory over the champions, Stoke City, but the drama was at Exeter, where the home manager, Alan Ball, was involved in angry scenes at the end of the match with Port Vale.

The former England player had to be restrained by his team captain, Peter Whiston, and physiotherapist, Mike Chapman, from confronting the match referee, Bob Hamer, after he had awarded Vale a last-minute penalty from which Paul Kerr ensured a 1-1 draw. An Exeter victory would have ensured them of second division football next season.

Spectators raced onto the pitch and bundled Hamer to the ground, before he was rescued by club security officials and police.

Gascoigne can start training

By Our Sports Staff

PAUL Gascoigne yesterday received clearance to resume light training from the surgeon who operated on his broken cheekbone. But the Lazio footballer has a race to be fit for England's World Cup ties in Poland and Norway in less than four weeks.

The midfielder player, hurt by the Dutchman Jan Wouters' elbow in last week's 2-2 draw at Wembley, returned yesterday for a check-up at the private Essex clinic where he had his latest operation.

The outcome was permission for him to resume light training, coupled with inclusion in Graham Taylor's England squad for the matches in Katowice, on May 29 and Oslo on June 2.

A statement from the clinic said: "Following Paul Gascoigne's operation to straighten a depressed fractured segment of his cheekbone last Friday, he has had a post-operative check with his surgeon, Mr James Evans, and has now gone back to Italy to recommence training with Lazio."

"Paul Gascoigne has done very well and made a good recovery but he will be out of competitive football for a few

weeks... his fractured cheekbone is well aligned."

Taylor put Gascoigne's recovery at three weeks from the day of surgery, and is hopeful he will play in an Italian League game at Brescia on May 23 before joining the rest of the squad at Bisham the following day. Taylor said: "As far as I'm concerned, if everything goes well there is no problem there."

Lazio will make their own medical assessment and have not yet ruled out the possibility of him playing a week earlier in the home game against Ancona.

Nottingham Forest are planning a lasting tribute to Brian Clough's remarkable 18-year reign at the City Ground.

The club is to build a new executive stand at the Trent end of the ground next summer — and it will be named after Clough.

Fred Reacher, the chairman, said: "For what he has achieved at this club, it would not be misplaced if the entire stadium was named after Brian. But I'm sure he will be honoured to have his name linked with what will be a superb new development."

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THE NEW 5 YEAR ROSE DEBENTURE

Lewis on ropes over injury

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, sees the world champion cover up as rumour sweeps Las Vegas

Hugh Thomas, the director of the Horse Trials, has taken extra safety measures this week in case there is a repeat of last year's rain-sodden conditions when three horses died on the cross-country. The 30 fences on the course will be roped off just in front of the take-offs so that the ground is not made slippery by spectators walking right up to the jumps.

Correa said. "Bowe, Bruno Alex Garcia, surprisingly even Larry Holmes could make him get up, and of course

Becker dropped only five points in the first four games to lead 4-0, and he also swept to a 4-0 lead in the second set, overpowering his opponent from the baseline. Typically, he finished the match with an ace.

"It is the first time in seven weeks I've got my timing right," he said afterwards. "I'm very happy how the match went. To play in Germany is an inspiration, not a pressure."

ATHLETICS: The Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) has deferred a decision on whether John Ngugi, the five-times world cross-country champion, was justified in refusing a random dope test, deciding that discussions would be held with the sports ministry before a decision would be released. Ngugi declined the test in February and the International Amateur Athletic Association suspended him indefinitely, pending an enquiry by the KAAA.

However, is the Francois Doumen trained Ubu III (Adam Kondrat).

Dozy old thing provides steady hand

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

HEAVY overnight and morning rain kept the tourists under cover and the teams off the field here yesterday. There was no cricket before lunch in the third Test match between West Indies and Pakistan. A draw had already become the most likely result, once Pakistan had avoided the follow-on on Tuesday, and this loss of play made it even more so. When, 40 minutes into the afternoon, the match restarted West Indies made a comfortable start to their second innings, being 14 for no wicket after four overs.

The West Indies' first innings led was limited in the end to 112, a ninth-wicket stand of 96 between Inzamam and Nadim providing Pakistan with an unexpected bonus. Of the 18 centuries now made for Pakistan against West Indies, Inzamam's 123 was the twelfth in the Caribbean. Until this innings, his best efforts for Pakistan had been in one-day internationals, notably last year's World Cup. His 12 Test innings have brought him a mere 173 runs.

But such is his ability that he has always looked a class player, even when he has not been making runs. The impression he gives is of being a good deal less volatile than his average counterpart, and of depending less than most Indian and Pakistani batsmen on eye and instinct and more on a game plan and a carefully cultivated technique.

He may look a dozy old thing, and he does tend to be rather too stately between the wickets, but he catches the ball at slip tell of quick reactions, as does the fact that he seldom bats in a belated. For years to come, Inzamam should be a stabilising influence in Pakistan cricket.

In the 12 years since Antigua staged its first Test match, it has created an atmosphere and an ambience all of its own. As soon as play stops, whether it is for an interval, or for drinks, or at the fall of a wicket, all inhibitions are cast aside, the cacophony is deafening, everyone gets in on the act.

Whereas Barbados once had the temerity to take on the Rest of the World in Bridgetown, though not to beat them, Antigua has superseded it as the most productive of the little islands. West Indies' past two captains, Vivian Richards and Richie Richardson, and two of their great bowlers, Andy Roberts and Curtly Ambrose, all four of them Antiguan, have lit a beacon on the map.

But wherever cricket is played in the West Indies, there is always the chance of rain, and on the Recreation Ground here yesterday the old pitches were strips of mud when play was due to start. By the time nature had dried them out, the day had been reduced to 47 overs.

Parents, the forgotten sponsors of top athletes

John Goodbody hears a chorus of approval for those who give their children sporting support



Families are the forgotten sponsors of British sport. They provide not only the financial, physical and psychological support for competitors and players, often to the detriment of their own interests and careers, but sometimes even coaching to international level.

At a dinner in London to celebrate the career of Sebastian Coe, the 800 metres world record-holder and twice an Olympic gold medal-winner at 1,500 metres, he paid tribute to the help both he and other athletes had received from their parents.

"People kept on asking what was the system that we had in British athletics to produce a golden era in the 1980s," Coe said.

"There were many reasons, but the one continuum through the stories of the successful athletes has been the support of the family. It is something that has been grossly underestimated."

Coe was coached by his father, Peter; Margaret Whitbread, the national coach for the javelin, guided her adopted daughter, Emma, to the world title; Steve

my mother," Whitbread said.

"A relationship between coach and athlete can be a strained one and has to be worked on. However, when we got home we had other interests, we shared with my father and two younger brothers. There should be a blend and balance in the family life."

Many of Britain's champions of the moment owe similar debts. Nicola Fairbrother, the Olympic silver medal-winner who retained her European lightweight judo title last weekend, has been backed financially by her parents for the past six years. Until the Sports Aid Foundation stepped in, they were virtually her only sponsors from the age of 17.

If she had not received assistance from her family, she could not have trained full-time. "In sports like judo, which are not rich, you rely on charity."

"All the top judo competitors have stable backgrounds. My family is so understanding. In concentrating on competition, my method is to cut myself off from other people. They are so good at putting up with this."

"However, my mother gets even more nervous than I do. In Barcelona, I could see her knuckles going white as I stepped onto the mat for the final. I just gave her a thumbs-up sign."

Like many young athletes, Darren Campbell, a likely successor to Linford Christie as Britain's No 1 sprinter, was bought his first pair of spikes by his mother. His parents separated when he was young but his mother, Marva, has been "formative".

She drove him down from Manchester to his first championships at Crystal Palace in 1989 and helped him financially. "She just wanted to give me a chance," he said, adding jokingly: "I am quite independent now, but sometimes I say to her: 'Go on, lend me a bit of money'."

Brian Miller, psychologist to the British team at the 1992 Olympics, said: "Even at the highest level there are going to be self-doubts at some stage, questioning why you are training and competing. If the family also questions the motives, then this becomes a 'negative reinforcement'."

He accepts that some enthusiastic parents can be stressful for the competitor. "Almost the worst scenario is when the competitor does not want to let the parents down. This is why it is so important for parents constantly to be self-questioning of their own roles."

Parents must always recognise that there are things more important than success in sport. Peter Coe realised this. When he was asked once what had made him most proud of Sebastian, he replied: "He was a good son."



Fairbrother: support

Overt received tremendous initial support from his mother, and later from his wife. What Coe termed the "outrageous talent" of Daley Thompson received encouragement from his aunt Allan Wells had the knowledge help of his wife, Margaret.

It is often the parents that are particularly important because most leading competitors develop their ability in their youth. As Coe pointed out, they not only identify talent but also give "hard financial support", sometimes throughout a career.

The psychological backing of the family also allowed Coe to survive nearly two years of criticism when he was ill in 1982 and 1983. "There was a very identifiable pressure from the media. It was a great help to have a close family and their support meant that I could come back in 1984."

Just as Coe also owed much to his father's coaching, so Whitbread was helped by her mother. "She was a motivator, driving force, and coach but, most important of all, she was



Winning team: Alex Bennett flanked by her supportive parents, Roger and Chris. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird

THE parents of Alex Bennett, the British junior backstroke record-holder, insist they are the rule rather than the exception in examples of support given to children's sporting careers. Chris Bennett, Alex's mother, said: "We are typical of many parents in many sports, but particularly in swimming, where competi-

tors train so much and often are teenagers. In many other cases, the effort is more praiseworthy because the level of achievement is less public. Their effort lay the foundation upon which local, national and international success in sport are built."

Dedication and organisation are required as the

Bennetts juggle the work demands of Roger, an information systems manager, home life and the academic and sporting careers of their daughters, Mia, 18, a hockey player, and Alex, 16, who last year won a 100 metres backstroke bronze medal in the European junior

Detailed below is the breakdown of a typical Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the Bennett household. Usually, no swimming takes place on Wednesdays.

There is training often only in the afternoons on Fridays. Weekends are often given over to attending competitions or further training.

04.50: Alarm. Prepare breakfast.
05.00: Wake swimmer with cup of coffee. Pack school uniform and kit in swim bag. Breakfast.
05.30: Drive swimmer to morning training (12 miles).
05.45: Arrive pool. Chris, Alex's mother, conducts swimming business while daughter swims.
07.30: Drive home (12 miles).
07.55: Swimmer has quick nap.
08.40: Wake swimmer with another cup of coffee. Wash out kit. Second breakfast.
09.10: Drive to school and back home (10 miles).
09.50: Housework, including preparing eve-

ning meal, and also write correspondence, complete entries, records, and reports, ready for swimmer to read, sign or check. Prepare snack for swimmer to eat at four o'clock.
15.35: Drive to school and home (10 miles).
16.00: Snack. Drink bottle and after-swim snack ready.
18.15: Drive to pool (pick up another swimmer - 15 or 20 miles depending on which pool).
19.20: Drive home after second training session of day. (15 or 20 miles depending on route).
19.50: Arrive home. Serve evening meal. Unpack, wash and dry kit if swimmer has a lot of homework.
21.30: Encourage swimmer to get some sleep.

Expenses
Average monthly refreshment during training session, £12
Average monthly mileage to training, 1,000 miles. Petrol cost, £90
Squad and base club fees per month, £30
Average entry fees per month, £12
Costs during competition for accommodation, travel and meals for swimmer, £965
Cost for family to support competitions, £400
TOTAL, £3,083

Qualifier puts out Novotna

FRANCESCA Bontivoglio, a 16-year-old qualifier, caused the biggest upset at the Italian tennis open in Rome yesterday by defeating the No 7 seed, Jana Novotna, 7-5, 7-6 in the second round.

Bontivoglio, ranked 329 in the world, was more than a match for Novotna, No 9, from the Czech Republic. "This is the greatest victory of my career," the delighted Bontivoglio said. "I went out and played my best, I had nothing to lose."

Bidouze into third round

REAL TENNIS: Bernadette Bidouze, the French No 1, convincingly beat Sne Bichenov in straight sets to reach the third round of the women's world championship in Bordeaux.

Penny Lumley, the holder, begins her defence of the title today when she meets the talented newcomer, Margaret Allen, a badminton international, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Grunfeld stroll

TENNIS: Amanda Grunfeld warmed up for next week's Federation Cup qualifying round with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Sophia Hior, of Sweden, in the first round of the LTA Satellite tournament at the Royal Berkshire club, Bracknell yesterday.

Andres Gomez, of Ecuador, plagued by injuries since winning the 1990 French Open, has been issued a wild card invitation to the grand slam event this year. Gomez, 33, won the 1990 final against Andre Agassi in four sets. Since then he has plummeted out of the top 100.

Cup of cheer

RUGBY UNION: Carlsberg-Teddy Alloa is to increase prize-money for the winners of their Alloa Brewery Cup by 50 per cent next season, bringing their involvement in national Scottish cup competition ever closer. The winners will receive £7,500 and there will be increased prize-money for the runners-up.

Irish squad

RUGBY UNION: Four full caps have been included in the Ireland development squad to tour Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in July and August. They are Claran Clarke, the full back, Mark McCall and Brian Glennon, both centres, and Paul Hogan, who plays at flanker or No 8. The team will be captained by Kevin Potts.

Boyle on brink

BOWLS: Ian Boyle, of Yorkshire, lines up in Jersey today needing one win from his last two matches to take the singles event in the Seven Countries Classic. Boyle clinched victories yesterday over Mike Smith, of Guernsey, and Len Avenbuch, of Israel.

Athlete injured

ATHLETICS: Jillian Richardson-Briscoe, the Canadian who came fifth in the women's 400 metres final at the Barcelona Olympics last year, was in a critical condition in a Calgary hospital yesterday after a road accident.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

West Indies v Pakistan WEST INDIES: First innings 438 (C. L. Hooper 170 not out, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). PAKISTAN: First innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). PAKISTAN: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). WEST INDIES: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100).	Cambridge v Glamorgan CAMBRIDGE: First innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). GLAMORGAN: First innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). CAMBRIDGE: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). GLAMORGAN: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100).	West Indies v Pakistan WEST INDIES: First innings 438 (C. L. Hooper 170 not out, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). PAKISTAN: First innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). PAKISTAN: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). WEST INDIES: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100).	Cambridge v Glamorgan CAMBRIDGE: First innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). GLAMORGAN: First innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). CAMBRIDGE: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100). GLAMORGAN: Second innings 158 (S. Waqar 5 for 100, R. B. Richardson 120, V. Sevak 100, S. Waqar 5 for 100).
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